E: Playdell Jnr

THE

MIDNIGHT BELL,

A GERMAN STORY.

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A GERMAN STORY,

FOUNDED ON INCIDENTS IN REAL LIFE.

IN THREE VOLUMES.

A round unvarnish'd tale. OTHELLO.

VOL. II.

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THE MIDNIGHT BELL.

CHAP. X.

Beneath a mountain's brow, the moſt remote
And inacceſſible, by ſhepherds trod,
In a deep cave, dug by no mortal hand,
A hermit liv'd; a melancholy man.

HOME.

STUNNED by the fall, Lauretta lay a length of time amidſt the ruins, inſenſible of her ſituation, till reaſon, beginning again to dawn, brought along with it a recollection of the accident that had befallen her. The tempeſt was abated, but it ſtill rained violently: her head and right ſide were much bruiſed, and her left arm was burnt by the

lightning: but, having fortunately dropped upon the wet earth, her body had ſuſtained no other material injury. She lifted up her head, and caſt her eyes around; but the twilight, obſcured by the thick rain, was inſufficient to ſhow her any object but the ruined turret cloſe by which ſhe lay.

Reſolved, however, if poſſible, to profit by an opportunity which ſeemed providentially given her for effecting her eſcape, ſhe with difficulty raiſed herſelf upon her feet, and, although very weak, ſhe determined to proceed from the caſtle as quickly as ſhe was able, hoping perchance to arrive at ſome convent before ſhe was miſſed—at leaſt could be overtaken—by her guards, who had probably not heard the fall of the turret.

She had proceeded nearly a league with-

out ſtopping, when the dawn of day, beginning to break, ſhowed her that ſhe was entering upon the precincts of a wood. The ground over which ſhe had paſſed was heathy and uneven: — heated and panting for breath, ſhe ſupported herſelf againſt the trunk of the firſt tree; her head ached violently; her arm and ſide were extremely painful, and her garments, drenched with the continued rain, clung round her, dripping with water. The inaction of a few moments produced a ſhivering chillneſs leſs tolerable than the fatigue of proceeding, and ſhe again endeavoured to walk; but exhauſted nature ſupported her trembling frame only a few paces, ere ſhe ſunk upon the rough ground: no proſpect but that of a lingering death, or again falling into the hands of Kroonzer and his companion, now preſented itſelf to her melancholy view: a flood of tears came to

the relief of her full heart; ſhe cloſed her eyes, and ſobbed bitterly.

In this ſituation ſhe had lain a conſiderable time, when ſhe heard a voice articulate ſome words which ſhe underſtood not. She raiſed her dim eyes, and beheld ſtanding by her ſide a hermit of a benign aſpect and venerable mien, on whoſe arm hung a flagon, and in whoſe hand was a ſtaff, on which he ſupported his aged limbs.

"Praiſed be the ſaints!" cried he, as Lauretta opened her eyes, "I am deceived; I thought thee dead." Lauretta extended her feeble hand, which the hermit taking in his, knelt down by her ſide. "My ſtrength is waſting faſt," ſaid Lauretta. After a ſhort pauſe, ſhe added, "Kind heaven hath ſent thee to cloſe my dying eyes."

"Rather do thou hope," returned the hermit, "it hath ſent me to ſuccour thee from death: thy nature ſeems exhauſted with fatigue; let me conduct thee to my cell hard by, and truſt to providence and my endeavours to renovate thy ſtrength."

"Alas, father!" replied Lauretta, "I fear I cannot reach it; I am too faint to walk."

"Let me entreat thee to eſſay it," cried the hermit.—The old man was feeble, and it required his utmoſt exertions to aſſiſt Lauretta in riſing from the ground: he then put the ſtaff into her right hand; and, encircling her waiſt with his arm, he held the other arm in his, and thus led her tottering ſteps through a winding path to his rude cell.

Having ſeated her on a bench covered with moſs, the hermit laid a faggot and ſome dried leaves on the hearth; and, having kindled them, he warmed a ſmall quantity of a reſtorative cordial he poſſeſſed, and gave it to Lauretta to drink. Somewhat revived by the medicine ſhe had ſwallowed, the old man placed her before the fire, and, having given her a ſkin mantle, he left her to exchange her wet garments, whilſt he went to fill his flagon at a neighbouring ſpring; which had been his errand abroad when he diſcovered Lauretta, but which he had left unaccompliſhed.

On his return, he found his fair gueſt in ſome meaſure refreſhed, but ſtill weak and ill. She complained much of the bruiſes on her head and ſide, and her arm alſo was extremely painful:—to this the hermit

applied an assistive balm; and, having given her a healing balsam with which to anoint her head and side, he conducted her into the inner division of his cell; and, having recommended to her to compose herself to sleep on his straw pallet, he left her myrpah, whilst he broke his own fast in the outward division of his humble dwelling.

Soft sleep quickly visited the couch of Lauretta, and she embraced it as a friend whose carelessness she was unwilling to forego; for the rude arm of mid-day had been some hours gone by.

The kind hermit had taken for her some apples and bread, and of these, together with some brown bread, she made a sufficient repast, and drank plentifully of the water from the spring.

Laurette's spirits returning with her strength, she voluntarily gratified the hermit's curiosity in regard to such particulars as led to account for the situation in which he had found her.

"A veil of mystery," said the old man, as Laurette ended her account, "has many years clouded the castle. The coward prudency reports it to be the residence of ghosts: your words confirm me in the suspicion I have long entertained, that it is invaded by a banditti. The castle formerly belonged to the family of Dysart, whose accumulations falling into decay, they have left the country; and their once flourishing mansion is now moulde[illegible] into a pile of ruins."

"Have they ever committed any depredations hereabouts?" asked Laurette.

"Never," answered the hermit. "If they are robbers, as I conjecture, caution would doubtless teach them not to affail the paſſenger near their haunt, leſt it ſhould be detected. But let us hope that the baron Swaldarr, whom you repreſent as your friend, will find ſome meaſure for bringing them under the laſh of juſtice."

"But how came Theodore connected with them?" ſaid Lauretta.

"Time will develope that myſtery," replied the venerable man: and he added, "However artifice may for a while conceal the guilty, ſtill aſſured that providence in its own time will expoſe the machinations of the wicked, and turn their evil deſigns on themſelves."

"The will of heaven be done," cried Lauretta. "But let me entreat your aſſiſtance in deviſing ſome method for my returning to my huſband."

"We muſt be cautious in our ſteps," ſaid the hermit, "leſt they lead to the diſcovery of your retreat, and you again ſhould fall into the power of your malicious enemies."

"By your counſel I will be guided," replied Lauretta.

"Thus then I adviſe," anſwered the ſolitary man. "I will provide thee with implements for writing unto whomſoever it ſhall beſt ſuit thy purpoſe; and on the morrow I will ſeek a truſty peaſant, reſiding on the ſkirts of this foreſt, who ſhall convey

what thou hast written to the baron Smaldare; and he may then concert some measure for thy safe return to thy husband."

Lauretta gladly adopted this proposal, and, having added a brief account of her sufferings and present contentment to her beloved Alphonso, she inclosed it in a cover directed to the baron; she then drank a second cup of the cordial prepared for her by the hermit, and again retired to his pallet, which he kindly offered to relinquish for her accommodation, having prepared for himself a bed of dried grass and leaves in the outward part of his cell.

Early in the morning Laurena arose, with a heart lighter than she had for some time felt it; and, having paused her usual hour in her accustomed devotions, she sat down to

an humble repast, and the hermit then sallied forth in search of the peasant who was to be Lauretta's messenger to the cottage of Smaldart.

On his departure, Lauretta again habited herself in her own garments, which a constant fire had now rendered fit for wearing; and, not daring to venture without the cell, she fit ruminating on her happy and unexpected escape from her prison, and anticipating the pleasure of again beholding her Alphonso.

The hermit, on returning, informed her that the peasant had willingly undertaken the journey, and that, in about five days, she might expect the arrival of her husband, or at least to receive some intelligence of him by the return of the messenger.

Lauretta expressed to him her gratitude for his kindness in the warmest terms; but he silenced her by observing, that what he had done was but the debt of man to man, and that it were better not to know than not to perform it. She raised her hands to heaven, in thankfulness for the kind protector she had found; and at the same time dropped a tear for the sorrows of her Alphonso.

In the course of that day, Lauretta ventured to inquire of her venerable host, what could have induced him, who, from his knowledge of the world, and the refined sentiments of his heart, seemed so far to well calculated for the offices of society, to have secluded himself from all intercourse with men.

"Child thou, daughter," he replied, "as

tend with patience to the tale of a care-worn old man?"

Laurena immediately expreſſed her anxious wiſh to be made acquainted with the hiſtory of her newly gained friend.

The hermit heaved a ſigh, and thus began.

CHAP. XI.

When sorrows come, they come not single spies,
But in battalions.

HAMLET.

THE HERMIT's TALE.

"In me you behold the victim of a supposed crime: suffering where I had never erred, and denied the justification which, after years of misery, I was tantalized by having placed fruitlessly in my view.

"My father was a man of some small rank and eminence in the city of Berne, in Switzerland: he had been twice married; my sister was the fruit of his first marriage,

myself of his second; and we were his only children.

"My sister was adorned with every beauty and grace that is captivating in a female form: a German count, to whom she by accident became known, grew enamoured of her, asked her hand of my father in marriage, and, as you may readily suppose, was not denied his request.

"About a year after the marriage of my sister, my father died; my mother I never had known; I succeeded to the property of my father, and, in a letter of condolence written me on his death by count Hayden (for such was the name of my brother-in-law), he earnestly entreated me to pass over into Germany, and visit my sister.

"The property which had devolved on me by my father's death, being sufficient to maintain me in a comfortable though not in an affluent style of life, I had not turned my thoughts to any vocation, and consequently had no bar to my accepting the kind invitation of the count.

"I accordingly wrote to him, with thanks for his kind remembrance of me, and informing him that I should with pleasure visit my uncle at her new abode.

"A few days after, I set out on my intended journey, having resolved to travel on a favourite steed I possessed, for the benefit of the better enjoying the beauties of the country through which I should pass; and, strange as it may seem to you, one reflec-

now was the foundation of a train of misery which has known no abatement.

"You will doubtless think my tale an improbable one;—oft do I myself look back on past occurrences, hardly able to convince myself they could ever be: but I have learnt, from fatal experience, that the most trivial accidents may carry in their train a complicated and inexplicable string of misery.

"Let the words which I shall now relate, teach mankind not rashly to fix the stamp of guilt upon that brow on which unproved suspicion hangs, nor to shun the ear of compassion against the voice of him that is accused, because he may seem guilty.—Let my tale be known to all: to the wretched it will teach that he has a brother in affli-

tion, and he on whom fortune has smiled, may gather from the misfortunes of another, a lesson of thankfulness and content.

"My first day's journey was prosperous; on the second, towards evening, when I was within two leagues of the village where I meant to pass the night, having carelessly let my bridle hang upon the horse's neck whilst I eagerly gazed at the delightful prospects which the country afforded, the animal having fix his foot on a rolling stone, fell, and so severely wounded his knee, as to render it impossible for him to proceed.

"Perceiving at a short distance from me a neat cottage, I dismounted, and repaired towards it; the door was opened by a man who appeared to be between forty and fifty years of age. I told him the accident that

had befallen me, and requested him to direct me to some person who might give assistance to my horse. He immediately called to him a lad of about fourteen years of age who was working in a garden adjoining to the house, and ordered him to lead the horse to the stable. I was too much in need of assistance to be very particular in my investigations, and therefore willingly accepted his offer.

"It required much persuasion, and even force, to conduct the animal to the stable which had been so kindly offered for his reception.

"I hastily helped him, my kind entertainer himself administered to the wound, and then requested me to follow him into the house. A neatly dressed woman, who, he informed me, was his niece, rose at our en-

trance, and welcomed me, as did two beautiful little girls, her daughters.—My late accident served to commence our conversation; and the natural questions of whence I came, and whither I was journeying, with their subsequent answers, followed.

"The lad, whom I had left in the stable with my horse, presently entered, and, shaking his head, said, 'Ah, sir! this is a bad job; it will be some time, I doubt, before your horse will be able to set a foot on the ground.'

'I looked mournfully;—my host, whose name was [illegible], observed it, and thus addressed me:—'Nay, sir, don't be uneasy on account of your horse's accident; I hope the boy may be mistaken in his conjectures; at all events, if you can pass a few days with

comfort to yourself in this humble dwelling, your company will be very acceptable to its inhabitants.'

"I bowed a look of thanks, for an offer by which I felt myself obliged, but hardly thought myself entitled to encroach upon the politeness of a stranger by accepting.

"'Well, well,' continued Duke, clearly perceiving, I believe, what passed within my breast, 'I must fulfil on your staying with us to-night; and to-morrow we will talk farther on the subject.—Come, let us step into the fields, and see if our opinion coincides with Gerty's.'

"I ose to follow him out, but he stepped back from the door, and, with an inclination of the head, waved his hand for me to pre-

cede him; I returned his salutation, and passed on as he directed me: he was then behind, and I heard his niece rise, and call him back. I entered the stable, and found, on examining the condition of my steed's wound, what Peter had said to be but too true. In a few minutes Dulac joined me; smiling, he said, 'My niece, sir, was fearful we should not be able to give you accommodation that you would like; for we have only one unoccupied bed, and my nephew Bertrand is gone to the next town, where he expects to meet his wife's father and her husband, who are coming back with him to pass a few days here: but I told her not to be uneasy about that, for you were my guest, and if you would condescend to occupy half of my palliet, you were heartily welcome to it.'

"I thought this a bad time to apologize for my intrusion; for if I did, it might seem as if I was dissatisfied with my accommodation; and I accordingly accepted his offer with as great warmth as he had made it.

"My manners seemed to please him; and I could not fail being gratified with his kindness, as his words and actions plainly flowed themselves to be such as proceeded from a warm and benevolent heart.

"In about an hour's time, Bertrand and his friends arrived; and Duke presented me to his nephew, who welcomed me as cordially as his uncle had done. Shortly after, we sat down to supper: good humour prevailed, and I was happy to see that the party appeared by no means displeased with my society.

"At a late hour we parted, I believe, with mutual regret.

"From their conversation, I learnt that Dilac rented the farm on which he lived, and superintended the management of it himself; while Bertrand and his two sons performed the offices of tillage and husbandry.

"My first business in the morning was to visit my books; and I was happy to find it in a much more salutary condition than my fears had led me to expect I should.

"Previous [illegible] Dilac invited me to walk with him; an invitation which the beauty of the surrounding country [illegible] rendered [illegible]. Through the [illegible] beauty conspired [illegible]

whose conversation was at once entertaining and instructive, led me to the margin of a small lake, on whose bottom the sun shining in its meridian splendour, cast the most vivid gilding I had ever beheld; on the other side of the lake, a knoll of various trees presented itself to our view; on the right hand lay the ruins of an ancient monastery, with its decayed bridge, forming a tedious path over a babbling rivulet; on the left, the open country afforded a prospect for many leagues in extent, speckled at intervals with clusters of trees, straggling cottages, corn fields, and browsing cattle; all to this, that the ground on which we trod was the cemetery of a female dynasty of great renown, an whole human wisdom and all mortality prone, and that, as we reclined on the sedge turf, the sighing of a neighbouring grove was our knell; and you will say with

ther that I was entranced by the fairies.—At that moment I felt fruitions of the most exquisite happiness; or, perhaps, I think them the greatest I ever experienced, because they were the last pleasing moments my heart ever knew.—With the fixing of that key, whose glories I then admired, for my destiny on earth.

"I felt the loss of enchantment with regret; on our return home, I expressed to the warmth of the delight I had experienced in the evening since I had not been beholding. Bernard listened to enjoy the praise I had bestowed on his assistance, and promised he would in the evening accompany me to the same place, where he declared I might feel that I should have still greater pleasure, as the effect would be the same produced by the fairies. I gladly

accepted his offer, and about ſun-ſet we reached the lake, a ſhort time before the glories of nature in their full perfection had drawn forth my admiration.—A part ſeemed now to be vaniſhing, for the ingenious purpoſe of fixing the attention more ſtrongly on that which was viſible. — Bertrand threw himſelf on the graſs; I ſtood by his ſide, gazing at the riſing moon, who, courting ſplendour from the departing ſun, faintly ſilvered thoſe waves her rival orb had before deeply gilded, and liſtened with a melancholy pleaſure to the falling of a neighbouring caſcade, the view of which I had now ſo placed myſelf as to command, till the ſcene ſoftened me into that extaſy of ſorrow, which muſt be exquiſite if felt at all, and muſt be felt to be deſcribed.

" I had often indulged ſimilar ſenſations

and finds equally inviting: but they had never produced in my feelings so blessed as I that evening felt! — how often have I since thought they were but merely the flattering omens of my future hapless lot!

"Antonio gave the signal for our departure, and I reluctantly complied with it.

"The exercise I had that day taken had somewhat fatigued me; Didier observed it, and producing a flask of his old Tokay, I drank with pleasure of the cup as it went round, and found myself refreshed and exhilarated.

"The evening passed off with the same harmony and satisfaction that the former one had done: at about the same hour of the

preceding night, we secured ourself, and sleep quickly overcame me.

"Among the clay, the heat of the weather, and the warmth of our chamber was oppressive, insomuch that, waking towards the dawn of the morning, I found it had caused me to bleed violently at the nose; I endeavoured in vain to stop the flowing blood, and my endeavours awoke my companion, who, according to my instructions, advised me to go and walk in the wood, at a small yard adjoining to the garden. I immediately rose, and, having leaned on some of my clothes, my bleeding ceased, when he called to me, telling me 'If I had ever opened the door

[illegible] ' that I did not recollect that I [illegible] ' Then,' said he, ' take this pocket knife,' drawing one of no [illegible] the pocket of his waistcoat which lay in his [illegible], ' and [illegible] the blade under the [illegible] with the hand, while you lift it up with the other, or you will [illegible] tion to me, and taking the knife from his extended hand, ran it [illegible] flaps, and found it of much service to me in opening the door, the latch of which seemed to have been broken, and not yet mended; I then enter- [illegible] the path, and, having drawn up a bucket of water, the cold [illegible] refreshed the dejected spirit of the [illegible], and having [illegible] to rest, I resumed to the [illegible]. Dulac, who heard me come up, asked me, ' If I had shut the outward door?' I told him [illegible] and having [illegible] I went

on my side, and was quickly composed to sleep.

"In the night, I found Hilde was rising unceremoniously dressed myself, and went down, where I found the family all stirring at the fire. After the usual salutation of the morning, Bertrand inquired of me for his uncle: I told him, I had not been into the passage: 'Two more have I,' replied Bertrand, 'he has probably strolled down to the Lake.'

"'Oh well-a-day, I dare say, to have an early breakfast and meal,' added Martha (for so Mr. Bertrand's wife is called) 'it is a very unchristian like to sit so long fasting in a morning.'

"Bertrand's two daughters, the one about

eleven, and the other about nine years of age, had finished each her cup of milk, before we had completed our meal, and immediately went up stairs, as Martha informed us, to attend to the duties of the toilet.

"Dubbs did not return. — Bertrand began to wonder that he exceeded his accustomed time, and Peter went out to look for him, — as the family now considered he had mistaken the hour.

"In a few minutes the girls came running down stairs, with terror painted on their countenances, and the elder of them exclaimed, — 'that her mother's bed was all over blood!'

"Bertrand and his wife cast a look of [illegible] on each other, — [illegible], and began

immediately to apologise for what had happened, informing them also, that I had returned for the advice of Father, and gone to bed with, which nothing had proved the remedy of my complaint.

"'I saw a flash of blood upon the file of the wall the moment,' said Bertrand, 'as also to the pathway leading to the garden: but I had forgotten to inquire into the cause.'

"'All my uncle's clothes are lying by the side,' said one of the girls.

"'I know,' continued Bertrand, and immediately ran up stairs.

"A general silence prevailed till Bertrand returned.

"'What Nicola told us is too true!' said he. 'All his cheeses except his old ones, are in the chamber,—in that, he always wore his pursc,' added he, at the same time darting at me a look of suspicion and scrutiny.

"Bertrand went on: 'However dainty Louis d'Or for his own the day before yesterday: did we give them to you'—looking at Martha—'to lock away?'

"'No,' answered Martha; 'he was counting them on my knee when some stranger knocked at the door, and being accustomed to put them all into his pocket again.'

"'This is a strange event!' said Bertrand, again looking at me.

"Astonishment prevented my utterance; and my silence, I believe, flattered Bertrand in the suspicion of my guilt, which I afterwards found had immediately flashed on his mind.

"Bertrand, his brother-in-law, and the women, now began to converse together, in low voices, drawing, as I observed, at intervals, the most significant glances at me.—I felt confused beyond what I can express, and, but for a little shame prevented me, I should have fallen on my knees to pray for the return of Dolac, and to declare my innocence.

"In a short time, Bertrand's brother-in-law, Laval, left the family, and Bertrand, then advancing towards me, charged me with being one of the robbers, that had, for some time, in-

[illegible] that part of the country, and that having by some means gained intelligence that Dalio was to receive a large sum of money the day before, had planned the stratagem by which I had entered the house, for the purpose of plundering him of it. 'Not satisfied,' added he, 'with robbing him who kindly became your benefactor in an hour of pretended distress, you have endeavoured to darken one crime by the commission of a blacker enormity: but remember, young man, for offended justice is diligent in detecting the breakers of her law.'

'The terror I experienced at this open declaration of his sentiments, though I had before read them in his countenance, overpowered me for a while. But it was a delicate task I had undertaken to [illegible] on the door, and my agitation, I [illegible], was

[illegible] Bertrand and his wife in thinking me guilty.

" The door was now locked upon me, to prevent my leaving the house, and I was given to understand that I was to go to the neighbouring town to face the officers of justice.

" In a short time, however, I gained courage from reflecting on my innocence, and I brought Bertrand to hear my vindication; he did not seem so averse to my stay I believe indeed, while I was alone at length all the particulars I recollected relative to the preceding night.

" I very soon [illegible] — every footstep that I heard fall, — made my heart flutter with the hope and expectation of see-

my Duke could see all how terribly did every new disappointment add to the load of misery that weighed down my heart!

" Presently after, Peter returned from his mayor of Dijon. ' He bid,' he said, ' looked for him in vain.' Bertrand learned to receive the intelligence he expected. — Marius began in a low voice to communicate to his son what had past in his absence, and I could not help hurling my eyes, as my thoughts continued to dwell on my unhappy situation.

" In about one hour after, the effects of [illegible] arrived, sent on the invitation of Bertrand. I need not then name, I need not then [illegible] Bertrand dog expected [illegible] I might be assured. When we with what words of honour shall I relate [illegible]

at them drew from my pocket — open, and ready — the knife which Dulac had lent me for the purpose of opening the door. In my agitation the circumstance had entirely fled from my mind. Then I had not related that part of the night's occurrences to Bertrand: no one would now hear me explain it; and it was decided by all, that it had been the instrument of Dulac's death.

"Deaf to my remonstrances, they led me to the next town, and I was thrown into prison, there to lie, till the period at which I was allowed to take my trial, should arrive.

"I apprized my brother-in-law of what had happened: he immediately fee'd our former police, and having learnt my unhappy story from my own mouth, he, without delay, began to exert both himself as he could

my trial.

" Dolac returned not: — every possible inquiry was made after him by my advocates, but they all proved in vain; and the fatal day arrived, without any circumstance having occurred which could alter the fixed doom to convince the world of my innocence. The wolf [illegible] and we being found in [illegible] that was not sufficient [illegible] mutually found to appear against [illegible] bloody knife having been found upon my person.

" My trial was short, and I heard myself condemned to die: that sentence was the death-blow to my father; for, as I have since [illegible]

[illegible] for saving the [illegible] of my [illegible]. I was taken back to prison, and a council was called to attend me: my [illegible] moved him; he began [illegible] my unhappy [illegible] at the approach of death, and promised to use his influence in my behalf. His [illegible], joined to what degree of weight my brother count Harden possessed in the city, obtained for me life, on the [illegible] becoming a galley-slave for the remainder of my days.

"These words [illegible] a condition [illegible] I no longer [illegible] to [illegible] me [illegible] and restore me to my country.

"I will [illegible]

from my beloved wife, and my unfortunate journey, to the moment when I was chained to the oar.

“ Ten years' slavery in the island of Cyprus, [illegible] I been told, inured me to the hardships I experienced, but did not abate the anxiety of my mind. Oh! what a [illegible] of uncertain fears, struggling amidst [illegible], without the means of proving [illegible] it is from misery, the load it labours under!

“ At the end of this period a war broke out between the power to whom I was subject, and the emperor of Morocco. In the course of a year the emperor obtained a great victory over the Cyprians, and I, amongst other prisoners, became the proper-

[illegible] was [illegible] because my [illegible] to cultivate the gardens belonging to the [illegible] palace: my labour was [illegible], but I was [illegible] a slave, and the [illegible] was more severe than he to whom I had before been subservient.

" Thus did I pass on twelve more years, void of comfort either for my mind or my body, when, by an exchange of slaves, with the view of which I was unacquainted, I was sent to work in a garden belonging to the palace of the emperor.

" On the third day after my removal to my new business I observed an old man in a slave's habit, whose countenance I thought was familiar to me. He observed me as well as I, and [illegible] the leisure to examine his features, he re-

former cast his eyes on me, than he pronounced my name, and his voice instantly convinced me, that it was no other than Deline who stood before me!

"After our mutual expressions of surprise were ended, I began to inform him of all that had befallen me since our separation,—and with eagerness I then enquired of him, by what means it had been effected.

"'Oh!' said he, 'what hardships have I not suffered since we parted!—what misery have I not undergone!—But I will not murmur, for the decree of heaven is just, and unchangeable—till its due time ordains a revocation of it.

"'Not long after you had removed to bed, on the morning on which I last beheld you,

I imagined I heard some one enter the house, by the door from the garden; I immediately drew on my waistcoat and slippers, and running down stairs, I beheld in the kitchen, attempting to open the door which led to my private closet, wherein I kept such bonds, papers, and money, as I fulfilled, two of my search companions, whom I had long known to be of suspicious characters, from their being connected with a set of smugglers, who resided on the coast of France.

" Their astonishment at seeing me you may well conceive; they immediately seized and pinioned me, and having some moments consulted how they should dispose of me, to prevent my appearing in evidence against them, which by them I understood to consist, they said I would not do, if they would depart, and suffer me to remain unmolested,

they resolved on carrying me to what they called their cave.

"Without the house there were two other men, their accomplices, whose countenances I knew not, waiting to affist them in carrying off both boxes as they might choose to dictate; they were not a little disappointed at seeing me only brought out to them; but, as I afterwards found that they made a point of leaving all who might be liable to aft towards their discovery, they dropped me on between two of them, muttering curses on me for having interrupted their plunder, and surly smiling as they vowed vengeance against me.

"The cave they had mentioned, my dog out of the mith, from there I again [illegible] from the [illegible] where I refided, and [illegible]

ed for the purpose of concealing their contraband goods. Under this consideration and having handled my pockets, in which was unfortunately a sum of money I had two days before received for home claim, they left me a pot of water, and some dry crusts of bread, and left me.

* * My prison was four feet from the ground glimmering of light, the air admitted into it was so confined that I found a difficulty in breathing, and its scent was most nauseous; to which, add the agonies my mind was undergoing from the knowledge of my being in the power of these wretches, and turn from what I alone regarded, together with my anxiety for their concern at my unexpected and extraordinary disappearance, and you will fully perceive in yourself the agonizing feelings of my heart.

"'In the dusk of the evening two other men entered the cave, and having gagged me, led me forth; after some hours' walking, we came up with a body of men, who I soon found were colleagues of those who now conducted me: along with them were fifteen other prisoners, bound and gagged in like manner as myself, and who had been taken in Gratz vale by these infamous robbers.

"'After some additional hours' travelling, we arrived at another cave, much resembling that to which I had been conducted during the former night: here the other prisoners, together with myself, were laid down and deposited in the same manner as the first cave we found was inhabited by the smugglers themselves.

Many were the conjectures we formed with regard to our treasure; and though it was impossible we should allow any degree of certainty to any one of them, we could not help forbear drawing them.

"The next night we were again led forth as before, and after several hours' travelling each night, for the former reasons, and being lodged by day in caverns similar to those I have already mentioned, we found ourselves on the 8th night; we were immediately put on board a vessel lying a little distance out at sea, and we then understood that our treasure consisted chiefly of gold, which he told us Morocco, chiefly to the emperor.

"There is but one true friend in misfortune — resignation to the divine power, and

[illegible] fellow-sufferers.

[illegible] ‘Here have I dwelt a slave ever since;—and if providence has decreed me here to end my [illegible] will.’

“With what sorrow did I behold him who had been my kind protector, in the [illegible] duced to it, as I could not help thinking, partly by my means; as had I not on that

his repose, he in all probability would never have heard the entrance of those ruffians to whom he had now fallen a prey.

"I imparted to him my thoughts, and the anxiety they occasioned me; but he kindly chid me for betraying my judgment from events, and declared that my fear, from the probability of its existence to me for many hours, than the natural result of mine threatened him with a painful existence, with the greatest evils of imprisonment.

"From the first moment of my finding I indulged every power of thought and corporeal faculty on the search to devise some plan of [illegible] escape, hardly anticipating the success I should gain in it. I was allured to be the means of returning him to his country and relatives.

" Whilst my mind was thus employed in forming various stratagems, all of which, however, appeared ineffectual, an occurrence, as unforeseen as unexpected, and which then appeared to me the happiest of my existence, took place: this was no other than intelligence being brought to Morven, that a French soldier-man, lately dead, had left by will, to an orphan of his own cradle had nominated, a sufficient sum of money for the liberation of fifty Irishmen from what had been the height of captivity. And it is, I think, needless for me to inform you the joy occasioned by Dulac and myself on being informed that we were the happy number.

" Our fervent [illegible] for [illegible] and [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

to our reſpective country.

The ſquall ſoon ſubſided, and the ſea became calm; but the ſky continued overcaſt, and the flaſhes of lightning, reflected on the expanſe of water, appeared alarmingly vivid. The ſhip was toſſed in an uncertain manner by the foaming billows, which at intervals waſhed over the deck, and then again yielded to the dividing bow of the ſhip. A general conſternation ſeized every one on board; and, with a ſilence that in-

[illegible] driven upon the lee of a rock, [illegible] by the rolling waves, the vessel [illegible] two equal parts, and [illegible] by myself to [illegible] destruction.

[illegible] boat was [illegible] to the [illegible] the ship on which [illegible] and myself were standing: a [illegible] infinity [illegible] and having launched it into the deep, [illegible] me in. I followed me as [illegible] him, and having [illegible] the [illegible] I [illegible] Lucas from the [illegible] in my encircled arms. Immediately [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] distance from the ship; and in a few moments after we saw her swallowed up in a whirlpool.

"We beheld the light with horror, and knew not, as yet, whether to be thankful that we had not fanned the fire of the unhappy fishermen. In the space of an hour the wind began to abate, but the billows still rolled mountain-high; and it was with extreme difficulty that we could by any means balance our little bark. For some hours we continued to effect it; till our limbs becoming benumbed by the wet and cold we were enduring, a wave dashed over us, and swept our boat. I could from time to time, mechanically casting myself in the ways I imagined would be most favourable to the boat, and exerting strength which was called forth by the urgency of the occasion, I succeeded again to place myself in it. I immediately looked round for Hubert, he had vanished from my sight. As soon as I was raised from the water, I beheld it, and

lifted from the deep the pillar who had been the means of effecting my escape from the ship: — Didac was gone for ever.

" This was the completion of my misery; but as the preservation of life, when threatened with danger, is always the predominant idea in the breast of man, however his mind may be clouded with sorrow, I did not at that moment feel in its full force the loss I had sustained.

" Towards the break of morning, a small vessel, bound to Villa-Nova in Spain, perceived our situation, and having first run to us, to learn what we were, when we found, and to be accommodated in the yawl, would afford kindly bestowed on us: and we all then, when the recollection of our former [illegible]

the loss of Duke had rendered me.

in the boat, a very short time after our en-

gaged her destined port, and I landed on a country where I was an entire stranger, and possessed neither of the means of purchasing my subsistence, nor of earning it, as I understood not the language of the kingdom.

"Fortunately for me, the captain of the vessel was conversant with the French lan-

of Ulm, unknown.

"Seven weeks ferved to complete my journey: when, conceive my difappointment! —on reaching the fpot where I had hoped to meet the warm embraces of an affectionate mother, I learned that fhe had but two months furvived my exile; and that count Manfred had alfo fome years paid the debt of nature.

"I inquired whether my father had left any offspring. I was informed, that fhe had

never knew but one child, a daughter, and that she was also dead.

"I believe I had already been wounded so deeply by affliction, that an added pang was imperceptible to my grief-worn heart. I can no other way account for the firm composure with which I heard this defeat of my last and only hope.

"In my way to Ulm I had passed this evil; I had found it was deserved; its late possessor having been some years dead. I had no interest in the world, but rather a wish to secrete myself from it, lest I should be recognised by any of Dalac's relatives: and I possessed nothing in the world, for my property had been confiscated on my receiving sentence of banishment. I accord-

ingly determined to make it my dwelling; and having found that I had sufficient money left, from what I had collected on my journey from the charitable, under the dignity of a shipwrecked tailor, to purchase me a woollen robe, a scrip, staff, and flagon, I immediately repaired hither, and have resided here ever since, indebted for my subsistence to the produce of round about, in addition to the fruits and berries I collect in the surrounding wood.

"I have now dwelt here fifteen years; and, save the little conversation I held with the peasantry, you are the first whose conversation has cheered my solitary dwelling. —I am now fourscore and two years old: may you attain my years, without the sorrows that have burdened mine! and may you await the hour of your death, my son

study consolation, and a heart like mine, full of forgiveness towards those who may have injured you."

Here the hermit concluded, and Laurette, wiping away the tear from her eye which had been drawn forth by the softness of her benefactor, thanked him for the encouragement he had afforded to her, and to her own sacred promises to be the faithful guardian of his sad tale.

To avoid the sorrow of others, when she could be assisted by ourselves, tends only to increase the stock of our own. Thus Laurette now felt a gloom cloud her mind, which she found herself unable to shake off; and her attempts to appear cheerful only added to the depression which in vain [illegible] with the

were fixed intently from her downcast eyes.

The old man perceived the melancholy which had settled upon his guest, and began to entertain an anxious wish that he himself might engage her attention from the gloomy reflections in which he well saw they were dwelling: but finding his endeavours to be in vain, he again busied himself with a small fire, and having warmed with a trembling assiduity her hands and arm, which were now in a heating condition, he prevailed on her, as night was rapidly flowing in, to seek relief for her agitated mind in the completion of sleep.

On the following morning, Lauretta arose at the moment the old man returned from fetching his accustomed machine of water;

and he joyed to find that the refreshment of sleep had dispelled the gloom of sorrow which had on the preceding evening clouded her brow.

The hermit had also been to a neighbouring cottage, where he was constantly supplied with bread, and had brought from thence a basket of fresh gathered grapes, as a present to Lauretta.

During the course of the day, Lauretta expressed to her host her astonishment at Theodore's never having visited her during her late confinement; as, had he conveyed her thither from the love he bore her person, it was natural to suppose he would have immediately followed her, and by some means procured her admittance to his lady's presence. The hermit bade her be cautious with the

knowledge of having escaped the evil she had dreaded, cast sad her spirits with dwelling on a gloomy retrospect, new a smiling prospect of hope was placed in her view.

"But should it vanish," cried Laurette, "should the wicked Theodore have by any means cut me off from ayun beholding my Alphonsus" —— she paused, and the tears started in her eyes.

"Why thus unworthily allow thee, by visionary phantoms of discontent" exclaimed the solitary man. "Even the evils experienced in this life of probation to one is exempt: it is a blessed lot, wherein the most miserable to these fair evolve the best affection here, and restore in themselves the greater crowd formation; wherein to another moment, to double our

ritably calumny, while we endanger our future felicity, in drawing upon us the displeasure of him who alone can bestow it, by our want of confidence in his will and ability to protect us."

Lauretta felt the force of his words; but she felt too, that it was easier for a man, dead to every connection with the world, to give philosophic counsel, than for her to cease to be anxious for the fate of him whom alone she loved.

Towards evening, a sprightly fire cheared the friar's cell; and Lauretta, [illegible] passed the hours pleasantly, till the [illegible] gave the signal of retiring for the night; and Lauretta having given [illegible] they each retired themselves to their respective pallet.

About midnight Lauretta retired, and Al-phonsine immediately becoming the object of her thoughts, she lay ruminating on what might have resulted from such an appearance, when a low [illegible] [illegible], some-what startled, she raised herself upon the couch and [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] the near situation of her bed, she smiled at her vain apprehensions, and [illegible] on her pillow, fell insensibly into a sound sleep.

On waking in the morning, she called to the hermit, inquiring his health; and receiving no answer to her demand, she [illegible] her [illegible] to the spring; the [illegible] [illegible], and entered the [illegible] [illegible] of the hermitage, when, what was her astonish-ment on beholding the venerable [illegible] stretched lifeless on his mossy couch!

She uttered a loud shriek, and sunk upon the ground, but there was no one near to hear, or to aid her: at length, with trembling steps she ventured to approach the clay-cold corpse,—the ground upon it awhile to support, then, turning into a flood of tears, she exclaimed—"Hard, when I had dreamt a dream to soothe the heat of disappointed hours with delight, to allay love for a while each of me, that the hand of death should, at that ready moment, have wrested him from me!"—Oh! that I had flown to him when I felt heard that parting sigh! his left breast, deserted, then hung lingering on his lips, and my timely aid might have recalled it!—Oh! partners of my life, pardon my unwilling neglect of duty: and if, after death, retained hate (for, surely, such ideas are) have influence here on earth, un-

fern by man, Oh! cast a thought on the unhappy wretch whom death but here delays to succour."

Werner, She cast herself upon the bench which had not long before supported the old man and herself in cheerful conversation over the crackling embers; — a dead silence now reigned, broken only by her sighs.— Three tedious days and equal nights were before me, to be passed in solitude, without a light, and which she yet feared to be interrupted by any unwelcome visitant, before the stone would *clasp*, at the expiration of which the hermit had taught her to expect the return of her messenger.

She was nearly stunned on the awake from the delusion of grief and reflection into which she had fallen, and having risen from

a small quantity of bread, and drank a cup of water, she cast a look of sorrow at her deceased friend; and having prayed fervently, she cast herself upon her pallet, relying for protection on that being who, in the midst of whirls innumerable, preserves only one volition, by which our thoughts move forcibly on the blissful tenets of an endless futurity.

CHAP. XII.

Oh, my wronge,
My wronged love—my [illegible] sad—
Again, again, they wake me into madness.
[illegible]—

We now return to Alphonsine, whom we left on the last night on which Laurette was conveyed from him by the villany of Theodore.

The night was far advanced, when Alphonsine roused from the waters, and, on approaching the little habitation, his hopes were instantly raised by seeing the door open, and a light burning within upon the hearth;—he entered,—it was there—he called on Laurette, and on the girl who at

sented her; no answer was given him.—He sought her in every part;—again he called on her, it was in vain.—Frantic with surprise and fear, he ran to the habitation nearest to his own: he awoke its inhabitants, and, scarcely knowing what he said, or able to explain his own idea, he asked for Laurena, she was not there.—He then flew to the next cottage, and so on to every one in succession!—Laurena was not to be found; no any information to be gained respecting her.—He again returned to his own dwelling, again he knocked at, and again he called on his beloved Laurena; but Laurena answered him not.—"She is gone! left me ever!" he exclaimed.—"Theodore, the cruel Theodore, has torn her from me, he triumphs over me, and rejoices her!"—In his wildest agonies he threw himself on the ground, then leaping from the summit of

trance into which he had fallen, and with his cap still on his arm, as he had brought it from his boat, he rather flew than ran towards Smaldart castle.

The baron was just risen as Alphonsio reached the castle. — Alphonsio perceived him in the garden, and flying to him, apologized for an abrupt intrusion, and then requested the baron to inform him whether Theodore was absent from the castle.

The baron answered, that he had not seen him since the preceding evening; and immediately after, his reason for the inquiry, and Alphonsio, in as collected a manner as the agitation of his spirits would allow him to speak, related to the baron all that had passed since Theodore's arrival in Germany.

The baron was too well acquainted with the disposition of Theodore, to doubt either what Adelaide had said of him, or his being the cause of Laurena's being torn from her husband, and immediately dispatched a servant to the chamber of Theodore to ascertain whether he was in the castle.

The servant quickly returned, with information that Theodore was fast in bed.

"I did not suppose he had left the castle," said the baron, "I am well acquainted with the extraordinary temper, and by the motives of his future conduct, — not love, but pride, first urged him on to supplant you in the affections of an amiable and lovely woman; the triumph he there fought to gain was defeated by your Laurena's virtue; re-

venge is now the only passion left open to him, and he finds its gratification in separating the person of those whose affections he could not divide: — but rely on my friendship and services; he has doubtless entrusted your wife to the care of some bribed pettifogger in the neighbourhood till he can find an opportunity for carrying her beyond your reach: — fiddle the fleetest barks in my fleet, take two of my domestics to accompany you, and visit every habitation in the circle of my estate, commanding them in my name not to retain her. — I will in the mean time be answerable that Theodore shall not pursue her."

With terms of enlarged gratitude to the baron, Alphonso ran to the fleet, and having announced what the baron had re-

thorised him to perform, in a few minutes' time departed from the castle, together with the two domestics appointed to accompany him.

Theodore, if he had slept at all (and sleep is rarely the portion of even the most happy villany), had been awakened by the entrance of the lieyman into his chamber, and had immediately risen, and descended into the hall; he was inquiring of every domestic the cause of his uncle's having asked for him at so early an hour, when the baron entered from the garden; and perceiving Theodore, who was listening with the utmost counterfeited composure to the flury of Laurette's disappearance, as relating by one of the lieymen to his fellows, he beckoned him to follow him into an apartment.

Theodore obeying his uncle's call, entered the room, and threw himself into a chair, the baron closed the door, and thus addressed him: "Theodore, the unbounded indulgence of a too fond uncle has been your ruin, — boyish errors, left unnoticed, have ripened with your years into crimes; those crimes, which from their having been confined within the bosom of my family, or from the modesty of those you have wronged, so justly have escaped with impunity, on this occasion your haughty spirit triumphing in its imaginary freedom, seeks revenge for every supposed infraction, but knows that the forbearance of an insulted may be too far imposed upon, and the laws of your country too highly infringed. You have been trampling the former, and abusing the latter."

Theodore rose in great agitation, and was beginning to speak.—

"Be calm, and hear me," continued the baron; "your pardon of revenge has been tasted upon two amiable victims, sufficiently unhappy in their knowledge of you without the addition of your cruelty: but it was not enough for you that they were not wretched,—this was only to be done by tearing them asunder, and you have effected it: but they shall meet again to your confusion."

Confusion with rage at the open declaration of the falseness of the baron, when he had hurried home with the idea of having so dexterously combated the villainous act, as to have removed all fear of the flight of his victim falling upon him, Theodore ex-

claimed. "Me! accuse me of having carried off the wife of Alphandin the fisherman! You pay an exalted compliment to my taste, and to my knowledge of mankind in it."—Then, with a diurnal look, he added, "But I beg the female's pardon, to attempt to decide on the merits of her I never saw."

"Never saw!" returned the baron, fixing his eyes fiedfully on his nephew.

Theodore met the baron's eyes;—he read in them his knowledge of the attachment he had avowed; and a frown of petition surrounding the name of Constantia which had brought her upon his countenance, he cried, "No, I swear by heaven, that"——

"Hold," interrupted the baron, "reflect

not known by an oath, which, on issues re-
garded would not convince me. I cannot
suppose that the man whom I expect to be
the perpetual re a cripple, however as that of
which I now speak can, will hesitate the
commission of a second, wholly in hopes
to clear away the imputation of the first."

Perceiving the baron to be moved in the
point he was urging, and thinking a patient
show of resistance to be most likely to win
on the baron in his favour, he said, "If
you so absolutely refuse it kindly of me,
Sir, I shall still show to the conviction
time will give you of my innocence, for my
return to your good opinion; in the mean-
while I have, however, my own heart to refer
to for consolation."

What villain is not skilled in fair words?

— The baron was too well acquainted with the human heart, to ask the confession of Theodore. He knew that guilt is stubborn, and that the urgency of entreaty tends only to harden, not relax, its obstinacy.

He accordingly thus addressed him. "Theodore, you may be innocent with regard to what has occurred: it would greatly delight me to find you so, but I much fear you are not. If you are guilty, the restraint I am about to impose on you, will be only what you merit: if otherwise, the elucidation of this mystery will be to your honour. I am resolute in my determination, that the two apartments at the end of the northern gallery shall be your prison till Laurena is restored to her husband. Should it be possible that she has died from Alphonso or any other account, or with the other persons you

have no business to interfere in what concerns them only: if you have conveyed her hence, it is my duty to prevent your purloining her, and I will take care to put an effectual bar to your further annoying her peace."

Theodore called his hands and eyes with a look of astonishment and horror, then walked slowly to the window with his handkerchief to his face.

The apartments to which the baron had alluded, were immediately prepared; and Theodore, in fallen silence, entered them; and the lock was turned upon him by the baron's own hand.

The key of the apartment wherein the chevalier was confined, was given, by the

baron, to a truly servant, with orders to visit him frequently, and to supply him with every necessary of life, and any article of amusement he required; but on no account to suffer him to pass the limits of his prison.

Late in the evening, Alphonso returned much fatigued, and his spirits greatly dejected by the want of success that had attended his numerous inquiries.

Exhausted as he was, he immediately sought the baron, and requested permission of him to exchange his dress, and go out in search of his beloved Laurena. The baron informed him of what had passed between him and Theodore since his departure, and besought him, for his health's sake, to await the morning, before he went forth. But no consideration of what he would

himself undergo, could refrain Alphonsine from the pursuit of one whose safety was so essential to her happiness; and, having scarcely permitted himself to partake of a hasty repast, he resumed a fresh horse that had been prepared for him, and set out in a different direction from the castle to that he had before taken.

In the course of the following day, the baron visited Theodore. Confinement, to which he was unaccustomed, had already gone far towards curbing his wedded disposition: and, on seeing his uncle, he burst into a joyful exclamation, which fired his library; and during which it was with difficulty that he restrained his tears. The baron having looked round the apartment in order to satisfy himself that they were secure in every part, and the accommodation of his

nephew good, left him without speaking a single word.

Midnight brought back Alphonsus to Smaldart castle: the fatigue of body and mind he had undergone, had so far exhausted nature, as to require the most assiduous attention being paid to him; and being lifted off his horse, he was immediately, by the baron's order, conveyed to a bed in the castle.

"She is gone for ever, for ever!" he exclaimed, as the baron approached the side of the bed on which he lay: he endeavoured to say more, but wearied overpowered him.

The baron used every argument he could devise to cheer him, but he was too miserable to be finished by any consolation, for the prudence of his daughter.

Early in the morning the baron sent out four footmen commanding them to take a most circumspect view of their Alpheretta had done, and in every possible means that might lead to the discovery of the object they were going in pursuit of.

A fever in the blood had fixed upon Alphonso, and towards evening the violent delirium particularly ceased at intervals, with returning reason, he called for tidings of Lucretia, then again raving, he thought he held her standing by him; and again, reason returned to prove the pleasing vision a fallacy.

Thus passed on eight days of the most unhappy nature as all parties; no bloodless the most libidinous imagination can conceive, the baron of his task plan never attending

him a feeble satisfaction, which was nearly outweighed by the idea that suspicion fell too heavily upon him to be easily shaken off. A thousand plans had he formed for escaping from his confinement, and as many obstacles arose to render them impracticable: worn out by ending his violent temper or venting it on empty air, he at length determined to entreat, where before he had scarcely deigned to remonstrate, and in the humblest language, intermixed with the most liberal promises which the hope of obtaining his wish could suggest, he besought the domestic whom the baron had appointed to serve and watch over him, to favour his escape.

The servant, on whom the baron's severe punishment had been too forcibly laid, to hesitate a single moment in the endeavour of the

will repofed in him, ventured to remonſtrate with the chevalier on the impropriety of the repulſe he ſo ſtrongly urged, and the moloquacy of any reward to the loſs of the baron Smaldar's favour.

The baron, who had not viſited his nephew ſince the ſecond day of his miniſtering their apartments, now entered, and thus put a ſtop to a further converſation. Theodore, on beholding his uncle, burſt into a flood of tears, and calling on heaven to witneſs his innocence, inſiſted a recital of his confinement.

"I had imagined well my reaſons for the puniſhment I have deemed you to," cried the baron, "and I enforced it; and theſe tears, the teſt of diſquieted villany, ſhall not impel me to relax its ſeverity. In every

thing here to your satisfaction? I wish you to undergo no further inconvenience than what you may suffer in being prevented from leaving these walls."

To one subject alone could Theodore already be reconciled to the severities of imprisonment, and in louder accents implore for his accustomed liberty.

The baron had too tenderly loved Theodora to be entirely removed by his present distress and sufferings, and accordingly on the afternoon, left they should work from him an indulgence he might afterwards repent.

Towards evening of the eighth day Alphonso first began to abate, and the fair

re-turn which had before gratified him began to subside into a silent melancholy.

On the following day the messengers returned; they informed the baron, that they had met with an old woman, who had told them that a female, answering to the description of Laurena, and who had called herself a resident cattle, had been brought in a vehicle by two men to her cottage, early in the morning of the very day on which Laurena had been missed, and had remained there during the whole of that day; the woman, they said, had pointed out to them the road along which the men and the female had journeyed, and they had followed the track many leagues, but all their endeavours to discover the object of their search had proved equally fruitless.

Farther conviction of Theodore's guilt learned upon the baron in this account delivered by the old woman, but conjecture only troubled the more to perplex him, and he determined to see her himself, and gain from her such intelligence as she was able to give him: he accordingly commanded two of the household to refresh themselves, and be prepared to set out again with him in an hour's time.

The conduct of Theodore was now exhibited in striking colours, that villany could devise to the most humiliating extremity, in all its forms of practice its deepest cast. Wretched was the distress which bore to be saved, fawned, and prayed by turns, for the grant of her supplication, on the determination how wrongly he should be acting were he to [illegible] and wishing Theodore not to

favour a hope which he did not mean to realize, gave him a genial relish.

Contradiction from a flavant Theodore had never yet experienced, and even in his present humiliating state he could not brook it; he therefore laid the damsel by the ground, and throwing him upon the ground, gave a loose to his rage. Stunned by the blow, the man lay in a fit of insensibility: Theodore perceived his situation, and determining to avail himself of it, hastily snatched his pockets, and having found the key of the outward apartment, he unlocked the door, and fallied instantly forth, again closing it as he went out.

An hour after mid-day we have arrived at the cottage: and its hostess, who was no other than Sandra, gave him the same re-

formation she had delivered to the horsemen; adding, that the young woman had much wished to write a letter to be conveyed to Smaddart castle, but that she had not been able to furnish her with the requisites; and that her husband had meant to visit the castle on the following day with the message she had then desired her to get conveyed thither, being the first day he could spare from his laborious avocation. The message was only, that she had been carryed to the cottage by two ruffians, whom she knew to be the instruments of Theodore, and in secrecy that the baron would affist her husband in finding some means to accomplish her rescue.

The wood-cutter, Barnet's father, then told the baron, that on the afternoon prior to Laurina's being brought to the cottage,

two men had accosted him whilst at his daily labour in the neighbouring wood, and inquired whether he lived near that spot; whether he would give them the use of his dwelling on the following day; and whether money could bribe him to secrecy. "I am very poor," continued the woodman; "and extending my hand to receive a couple of pieces of gold which one of them held in his, I told them I would do any thing but murder to serve them. 'We require nothing but secrecy,' he returned: — 'we shall bring a young woman, for whom you must provide a bed, early in the morning, at your cottage, and stay with you all day.' I agreed to this, and having walked with them a few steps to show them where my cottage stood, they wished me good night, and left me."

"Proceed," said the baron.

"Well, sure enough, early in the morning they brought a young woman, and my wife took her up stairs, and then one of the men went away with the vehicle in which they had brought her, and came back with only the horses; and at night one of them took the young woman on a horse before him, and they gave me another piece of gold, and away they went, and we have seldom seen them, nor heard of them since."

"Would you had informed me of this sooner!" exclaimed the baron. "But complaints are of little value when one is unready for the evil." He further, he presented him with a piece of money, and returned to his castle.

Hoping that the irremoveable proof of Theodore's guilt might be efficacious in drawing from him a confession of the truth, the baron proceeded towards his apartments, where, to his astonishment, he saw, extended on the floor, the servant, just recovering from the blow he had received, and unable to give any account of Theodore. As his escape had not been long effected, he could not consequently have proceeded far distant from the castle, accordingly every domestic, and even the baron himself, ran out in search of him.

Theodore had, during this interval, remained himself in his bed-chamber, and now seeing from his window the servants and his guards issue from the portal, he ventured to descend into the hall of the castle, where he met with no interruption to his pro-

[illegible], he ran boldly out of the palace gate, and having reached the fields, he fiddled and marched at full speed: all danger now vanished before him, for he knew his pursuers at his ease, and he was well acquainted with the fleetness of the horse on which he rode; accordingly he clapped spurs to his head, and galloped dauntlessly forward.

[illegible] allow a certain portion of triumph to the [illegible] by their [illegible] ment.

Shortly after the baron returned to the [illegible] and four of his vassals were immediately commanded to mount their horses, and set off, in hope of overtaking the [illegible]

His horse was now refitted, and this information caused the baron the more carefully to urge their speed.

As the slight information which the baron had received relative to Lauretta, tended only to prove that she was in the power of Theodore's agents — a circumstance which the chevalier's recent escape had rendered the more distressing — he forbore to inform Alphonsus either of what he had heard, or of what had that day occurred at Smaldan castle.

Early on the next morning, the baron entered the apartment of Alphonsus, and on meeting his eyes, which the opening of the door had drawn towards the baron, he exclaimed, "Joy! joy, Alphonsus! Lauretta is found! Lauretta is in safety!"

The intelligence was too striking for Alphonsus instantly to believe that his senses had been true to him; he feared to ask a repetition of the baron's words, lest the pleasing idea should vanish in his wayward mind. He seized the baron's hand, and pressing it to his own, the tears gushed from his eyes.

The baron now put into his hand the letter of Laurena's own writing, which he had a few minutes before received from the peasant commissioned by the hermit, who had thus warmly rewarded his guile.

Although the tears which Alphonsus laboured had been much stemmed by the shell of an olive plantation whence the hermit had procured to attend him, yet while the latter, namely, the violent agitation of his

fever, continued, it was not possible that the effect could have been removed; and he was reduced to be weak a state by what he had undergone during the last ten days, not less in body than in mind, that, on receiving tidings at once so joyful, and yet, from the distressing state of his mind, so little expected, it was with great difficulty he knew how that life could be retained within him.

At length an hysteric fit of laughter, accompanied by many tears, relieved his overburdened heart, and he prattled alternately to his life and to his bottle the paper could contain the account of his Lavretta's safety.

When Alphonso was sufficiently recovered to know the particulars of joy that had produced him so much to the wonder of the keeper

the kind friend informed him, that he would take upon himself the office of being Laurent's guardian and conductor to the castle.

Alphonso sprang from the bed in which he had before been scarcely able to raise himself; and, declaring himself to be now recovered, entreated to accompany the baron: but to this the physician gave a flat denial, declaring that it was absolutely necessary to his health and safety, that he should not yet leave his bed, or have his composure broken by any avoidable means.

Sufficiently aware of the danger of the Laurens under the guardian of the lord baron, Alphonso reluctantly yielded to the remonstrances of the physician; and the baron departed, accompanied by two of his servants,

and the peasant who was to conduct him to the hermit's cell.

The baron had not proceeded far on his journey to the hermitage, ere he was met by his returning vassals, whose pursuit of Theodore had proved unsuccessful: and, as he now knew Laurice to be removed from the reach of the chevalier, he commanded them to discontinue their search.

On the third day after the baron's departure, Alphonzo was so much recovered, as to be permitted to leave his chamber: — his fever had quitted him: — his strength was returning, and his spirits were highly raised, at his dread of the mortification which Theodore, whom he vainly imagined still to be the fallen instrument of the power his uncle had decreed him, would in his

ran experience, on his seeing Lauretta safely restored to the arms of her husband. The adept's escape the baron had judged it most advisable to conceal from Alphonso, as the knowledge of it could only increase his fears for Lauretta's sufferings.

On the evening of the fourth day, the baron was expected to return, and Alphonso was awaited on the tiptoe of expectation for hour that should bring him to his cottage. Midnight sounded, and the baron did not arrive: Alphonso endeavoured to console himself with the possibility of the baron's journey having detained him in the length of a few hours, and to indulge with comfort the female which he might condemn into the approach of the expected stranger. Morning dawned, and disappointment still prevailed: day passed on to a week of anxiety

table inquiries; and night closed in with increased apprehensions to the trembling Alphonsus.

About the usual hour of the evening, as Alphonsus was traversing his chamber, with a mind fraught with the most heinous phantasms of the fair one that might have befallen her in whom his every wish and thought were centred, the distant approach of a carriage fell on his ear. He raised his lamp, and the increasing sound of joy accompanied him as he descended into the hall of the castle. Unacquainted with the exact method of opening the door, and his hand being infirm from agitation, it was some time ere he could effect it; and he drew it back on its hinges at the very moment the carriage stopped.

Alphonsus rushed out with the lamp in his hand; and, having scarcely permitted himself to salute the baron as he left the carriage, he sprang forward to meet Lauretta. Vain thought! Lauretta was not within it.

Grief and astonishment petrified Alphonsus.

The baron took his hand in his, and led him into the hall of the castle.

"Tell me the worst at once," cried Alphonsus. When, at length, after many ineffectual efforts, articulation was again granted him, "Tell me she is dead; the sound will be my summons to my grave."

"Alfhild does not lie deeply: she is not dead, though gone from us."

"Gone! how? whither? by what means?" exclaimed Alphonsus, his eyes rolling wildly in their sockets. "Has the vile hermit betrayed her to.....?"

"Sully not unjustly his venerable name," interrupted the baron. "He has, I fear, suffered much in her cause: when I reached his humble cell, the first object that presented itself to my sight was his lifeless form, stretched on the earth."

"And I murder!" cried Alphonsus, wanting to have the sentence filled up by the baron.

"Has baffled my most diligent search of her," added the baron.

"Mysterious heaven!" resumed the

youth; "who could have learned her retreat? — who have carried her from thence? — Is not the chevalier at this very moment in the castle?"

"Is Theodore then returned?" asked the baron eagerly.

Alphonso started, and fixed a look of inquiry, surprise, and suspicion, on the baron, that at once convinced him how ungovernedly he had spoken, and how fully expressive of Theodore's escape, which he had hitherto so carefully concealed from Alphonso, the few words he had just uttered had proved. He endeavoured to correct what he had said, but Alphonso flew in substantial proof, and the deserted apartment, which had been the stranger's prison, was now the certain conveyance of all his fears

Ye who have felt, can alone conceive and participate in the poignant feelings of Alphonso, as this heart-rending discovery:—by turns silent agony and frantic grief pourtrayed him. The plan which one moment suggested, the next taught him to reject; and, from a chaos of ideas, his perturbed mind could fix on no one to adopt in the perilous moment of despair and madness.

Recovering into the hall, he for a short space of time traversed it with hasty and uncertain steps. Suddenly stopping, he exclaimed, "It may not yet be too late to save her! Just heaven, nerve my arm, and guide my steps to the object of my search!" and fled from the hall with hasty steps.

The baron, alarmed by the wild mien of Alphonso on his discovering the absence of

Theodore from Smaldare castle, had ascended to the apartment of the physician, to inform him what had occurred, and summon him to the aid of his patient, at the same moment that Alphonsus had run to investigate the late pillage of the chevalier. And, having first sought him in the northern gallery, then in the apartment which had been assigned to him in the castle, and lastly in the great hall, he saw not for some minutes the open gate which bespoke his having left the castle, immediately on perceiving it, he ran out in search of him: but it was too late: for that moment a horse, which he had taken from the stable, and departed unseen by any one.

CHAP. XIII.

On her white breast a sparkling cross she wore,
Which Jews might kiss, and infidels adore.

Pope.

During the two first days after the death of the hermit, Laurette's solitude remained unbroken; and the expectation of being quickly restored to the protection of Alphonso, united alone to solace her in the gloomy hours she was continued to contemplate.

On the evening of the day prior to that on which she had been taught to await the return of the peasant, she had sat out an hour seated in her straw pallet, when whispering voices met her ear: her heart beat high,

her breath became fuſpended, and ſhe liſtened awhile in that ſtate of ſilent anxiety which fears to move, leſt it loſe the ſound it wiſhes to catch. In a few moments ſhe plainly heard footſteps in the outer diviſion of the cave, and immediately after a voice ſaid, "Give me the light." The light was produced, and the firſt object which it ſhewed to the expecting eyes of Lauretta was the viſage of Theodore.

Lauretta ſhrieked; and immediately the man who had held the lantern, having given it into the hand of Theodore, advanced, and taking her arm in his, led her from the cave. Theodore kept the light under his garment, and cloſely followed them.

The moment Lauretta had ſo much dreaded was now arrived; again inveigh-

cold filled her heart, and chocked her utterance. Her guide recommended to walk quickly forward, and she of necessity joined her steps to his;—whilst Theodore now his companion spoke;—and, when the power of speech returned to Lauretta, she well knew how callous the flinty heart of the chevalier would be to any entreaty she could offer up to him; and she judged ably how that to the ears of military man he, who would have kindly to be Theodore's agent, whether he was acquainted with his base designs, or had blindly sold himself to execute his will.

As it was already dusky Clara forced to light them on their way, and Lauretta firmly perceived that they had entered the forest through which the had passed on the morning on which she had so miraculously escaped

from her confinement in the caſtle. They ſtill continued to proceed; and, as they advanced, Laurette began again to diſcern the faint twinkling riſing above a gentle acclivity, which they were aſcending.

Preſently a cricket, much reſembling that Laurette had heard on the ſecond night of her impriſonment in the caſtle, ſounded at a diſtance: her heart thrilled at the recollection of the deluſive hopes that ſound had once raiſed in her panting breaſt, and ſhe ſtarted at the ſtrain now for her. Her guard, who probably, from the hidden motion of her body, conjectured that ſhe was endeavouring to diſengage herſelf from him, drew her arm more forcibly within his, and at the ſame inſtant turning round his head to Theodore, ſaid, "There they are."—"There be no ſhips a few moments," returned Theo-

dore. "Oh no!" replied the man; "they will be heard long ere we reach the convent: besides, were they not, they would not see us." "'Tis well," answered Theodore; "proceed then."

"The convent!" echoed Laurette's heart; and busy thought, ever ready to torment the breast it inhabits, pointed out that convent as her destined grave.

The tears burst from her eyes:—the horrible idea of never again beholding her Algernon, at that moment so forcibly impressed on her mind, was too heart-rending a sensation for the tide of grief with which it swelled her aching breast to be suppressed; and she was on the point of falling on her knees, and entreating to move the mercy of her guard, when a voice, at some

short distance from her, exclaimed, "Lauretta Byroff!"

"Oh God!" cried Lauretta, "what is it I hear?"

They were still amongst the trees. Theodore called to the man who conducted Laurette to stop: he obeyed the summons, and they looked round on all sides: no one was to be seen, and all was still.

"This is astonishing," said Theodore. "Those words were addressed to you," turning to Lauretta; "explain them, I charge you."

"I am unable," answered Laurette.

"Is it not your name?" rejoined Theodore, hastily.

"You know Lauretta is my name."

"You equivocate. I ask whether Byroff is also your name?"

"No," said Lauretta.

"What is it, then?" asked Theodore. "Beware not to deceive me."

"It is Byroff," replied Lauretta; a moment's struggle had resulted her not to utter a name her husband had so earnestly laboured to conceal; and for which she was now unwilling to devote to falsehood a virtuous one.

"Your own words have proved upon you one falsehood," cried Theodore. "How am I confident you have not uttered another? Theodore, unveil the mystery of this voice, or this moment is your last."

"By heaven, I cannot!" answered Lauretta.

"Then I will," exclaimed Theodore, drawing from its sheath his sword, on which he had last his hand when he first demanded Lauretta's embellishments; and, commanding her guard not to leave her, he rushed through the trees from whence the voice had proceeded.

Lauretta and her guide followed him with their eyes in silent wonder for some moments, when a sudden blaze from a watch-fire lighted her companion and the warrior; and, from the firmness with which he had held her arm, he in his fall drew her upon him. Astonishment chilled her limbs, and in an instant a cross-handled sword [illegible] her breast to the ground, and whispering in her

ear "Be silent," took her arm under his, and led her swiftly along: they continued for some time to approach towards the decayed cattle That was a matter of surprise to Laurena, for as she could not doubt his being one interested in her safety, it was natural for her to suppose that he would have led her as far distant as possible from the spot that contained Theodore's companions in iniquity. She was now, however, in the power of this Stranger; and she was well aware that if he was her enemy, her questions could render her little service; if a friend, that an inquiry would be breaking an injunction on which, perhaps, her life materially depended.—She suppressed her curiosity: the little portion of strength she could spare from her perilous mysterious situation, convinced her that the voice of him who now conducted her was familiar to her ear; but

she could not recollect where she had heard it.

Being approached within about a furlong of the castle, her guide turned into a narrow glen which lay on their left; they had not proceeded many paces, when he stopped, and disengaging himself from Laurena, he stooped down, and having drawn aside a bunch of furze and brambles which lay against the side of the glen, he took from an inner pocket of his coat a lantern, which, holding downwards, showed to Laurena the mouth of a stony rock, which seemed hardly large enough to admit a person on their hands and knees.

He gently knelt down, and creeping forward, in a low voice called to Laurena to follow him; — she hesitated a moment; —

"This was doubtless the cavern Theodore and the ruffian, who had brought her from the hermit's cave, had alluded to."—She shuddered.—"I conjure you, follow me," said her guide;—the accents *seemed* mild and persuasive;—Laurette smiled *boldly*, and followed him.

After having proceeded a few feet, they arrived at an aperture which, by what Laurette could distinguish of it by the partial and gloomy light thrown out by the lantern of her guide, appeared to be a large vault. They entered it, and entered a long and narrow passage out out of the rock;—their footsteps echoed as they traversed it; and Laurette could not forbear frequently turning round her head to assure herself they were not pursued.

Having attained the extremity of the passage, they entered another vaulted chamber, larger than the first. — Her guide opened a door on one side, which presented to their view a flight of stone steps; her guide began to descend them; — Laurette paused. — "Quick, quick, I entreat you," said he, taking her hand: upon the recollection of his voice struck her, and she suffered herself to be led by him down into a passage much resembling that through which they had passed above; at the other end was a third door, which the guide opened, and introduced to her view a small room, in which were a seat, a table, a bed, and a lamp: they entered, and the guide throwing off a long robe and cowl which he had hitherto kept closely round him, discovered to Laurette the person of Rasberg.

Laurella was petrified with astonishment; — he knew not what to hope, or what to fear.

"Be not alarmed," he said, "at beholding him you once thought your enemy; he was never willingly so, and he affirmed that he will now protect you at the hazard of his life: but your safety and my own both depend on my instantly leaving you: — stay not to be interrupted here, and rely on seeing me again very soon."

He lighted the lamp, and was departing.

"Oh! do not leave me," exclaimed Laurella, catching hold of his garment.

"For heaven's sake, do not detain me to

your own destruction.—If you should choose to hear footsteps, accompanied the lamp—Angels guard you!" So saying, he hastily closed the door, and Laurella heard him lock it and depart.

For some minutes Laurella remained motionless on the spot where Rallenz had left her.—When before in his power, she had felt no sensation but fear: now, his words had given her room to hope the greatest kindness from him; and yet shrouded in mystery that had accompanied them, mingled every consolation they might otherwise have brought her.

Why had the man, who had so lately been an affidant to her misery, so suddenly changed his proceedings? A man who

the lad before beheld him, had worn on his brow the fallen frown of discontent; yet, he recollected, he had also remarked that the muscles of his face had appeared affirmed, and his whole manner that of exultation. —"May not final hope in sin deceive me in this imagination?" the cried; "and yet the Dæmon of pride said which he now advised me has proved me right in my conjecture. His own life is ruined, the frown on his brow is deserved, yet did misery no triumph in his eye, and a tone of [illegible] on his lips.—My name, sir!" by what means can he have learnt that?"—This was a mystery, in the unravelling of which he had no clue.

— the last object which attracted them was the lamp, and she beheld lying by it on the table—a dagger!

Her blood chilled;—the perfectly recollected that that instrument was not on the table when she entered the apartment, thus no doubt could remain as to the of Rainey having placed it there.—He had declared he would guard her life at the hazard of his own; this very declaration seemed to prove that he knew her life would be attempted: then why had he brought her to a spot over which such imminent danger was suspended?—And if he had really come to preserve her, why had he left an instrument of death in her view?—Oh! she trembled for herself, but still endeavoured to reason how they were to act, and that the alternative of danger or misfortune would alone be left to

her.—But then, if Rolberg still acted in the interest of the chevalier, how could she account for the occurrences that had so lately taken place on the skirts of the forest?—Perhaps Lenoire had doubted the faith of the man whom he had brought with him to the hermit's cell, and had taken this means of trying him?—and this seemed the only motive that could in the slightest degree account for her being brought by a man who pretended to be her friend, to the very spot to which her professed enemy had declared his intention of carrying her.

For several hours no sound interrupted the silence of the house, and Louise with a trembling heart awaited the dawn to endeavour flight; at length she heard a footstep gradually approaching.—She involuntarily re-

solicited Ruthberg's injunction to blow out the light, but she wanted courage to comply with it; it struck her that her murderer, unable to view her dying agonies, might well be perpetuate the deed of death in darkness.

The key was now placed in the lock: Laurena darted from the bed as while she had been fixing, the door opened, and Ruthberg entered.—Having placed on the table a small basket he had brought with him, he closed the door, and taking Laurena's hand, thus addressed her: — "Did I understand you rightly this evening in the wood? Did you correct yourself as to the [illegible] when I unhesitatingly addressed you by [illegible] words?"

"I did," answered Lauretta.

Raikes now drew from his pocket the fatal crucifix which Laurens had been accustomed to wear suspended from her neck by the original pearls, which were produced by her grandfather to her mother on the day of her marriage with Count Rycroft. "This then is doubtless yours?" said Raikes, as he produced it.

"It is," replied Laurens eagerly; "I well remember that I left it in the room of the cattle, and often have mourned its loss."

"Is then done to you?" said Raikes.

"As the dying gale of a left mother kiss be!" — Recollection became painful as the words flew — Raikes

fighed, and for an inftant placed his hand before his eyes.

" Where did your mother die?" he afked.

" At the convent of St. Helena."

[illegible]

your father?"

" Count Byroff," fhe anfwered.

[illegible]

conjure you; — I charge you!"

[illegible]

aged Laurega. "On my faith I do not," returned Laurens. "My mother's dying breath drained him such."

"My child! my child!" uttered Ralberg, in a voice scarcely audible, and fell upon Laurens's neck. — "I am thy unhappy father! I am he that was young Ryvolf."

What a blissful name was this to the poor-worn Laurens: he had found a friend that would protect her; and, in that friend, a father. She met his embrace with the warmth of fervor, and for some moments held her clasped in silence to her bosom. At length, "that cross," said he, returning it to Laurens, "was my first gift to your mother. Oh! tell me! tell me! all that has befallen her. — But no — I must not ask for history now; it will be long enough ere

I must instantly leave you, or perhaps never see you more."

"Alas!" cried Laurena, "have I only found a father to be again bereft of him!

"Oh my child!" said ——— Rymf, "I think to comfort you in the situation in which you view that father. Misfortune had driven me to despair, and that despair tempted me to —— look! surely I am not discovered!" He paused—then continued. "No, all is still."

"To what?" asked Laurena.

"To ——— make —— a —— [illegible] —— (look!) —— you also corresponded with!" he cried. — "I must fly, or I may lose thee

for ever!—Farewell; it will be some time ere thou wilt see me again"—He went boldly on, locked the door upon Laurana as he had before done, and the sound of his footsteps in a few moments dying away, an awful silence prevailed.

It was some time ere Laurana could convince herself that the tranquillity of the last minutes was more than a dream, and, when reveiling that truth upon her, she wept tears of joy.

When reflection again returned, she began to meditate on the last words her father had uttered, and endeavoured to solve the mystery of his perfect freedom: it baffled her attempts, and she determined that it would be better not to see him, until she had learnt whether

"I am in safety," she cried, "but my Alphonso is ignorant that I am so; and what pangs will not he experience on arriving at the hermit's cave, and finding me gone!—the firmness, too, of my deceased benefactor will lead him to credit, that violence has been used against us both.—Oh! why did I not entreat my father to find some means of quieting the apprehensions of my Alphonso?—When he returns, it may be too late for him to trace the object of my anxiety!"

She kept not that night: a variety of fearful fears pulled her mind, and drove off the attacks of sleep: in the morning the monument the Italian count Byroff had, on the preceding night, left on the table: it contained provisions which formed excellent food for one so long days: a knife of

wax, skeins of wool, and some oil in a flask to replenish her lamp.

Day pulled on, and the solitude of her prison remained unmoved: — night arrived, and she still enjoyed little refreshment from sleep; her thoughts were occupied by the disappointed expectations of Alphonso on not finding her in the hermit's cave. She rose from her bed, and endeavoured to compose her mind by prayer, but the crucifix which he placed before her, only afforded a fresh subject for thought, by recalling to her mind all the mystery dependent on the discovery and conduct of her newly-found parent.

The following day pulled on, and swam Benoît without sun his daughter. Laurette's apprehensions were now raised for his safety,

she began to fear that the discovery of his last visit to her, which he had deemed so much to dread, had taken place; and the only ray of comfort which shone upon her harassed mind in this fresh cause of alarm, was, that, had this been the case, they who had made the discovery of his visit would, in all probability, ere this, have made it their business to discover its cause.

Her spirits had become much fatigued by continual watchings, apprehensions, and anxieties; and a few hours before midnight, a found sleep closed her eyes for a short time; but, on waking, what was her grief to find, that, having too long neglected to feed and trim her lamp, it had burned out. The utter darkness in which she now found herself, appalled her senses; and again throwing

herself on the bed, the tears flowed quickly down her burning cheeks.

Fearing the knew not why, to quit her present situation in the darkness which now surrounded her, she remained upon the bed, till she conjectured it to be nearly midnight. The solemn response of her own sighs were the only sounds she had heard, till a feather approaching cautiously towards the door of her apartment, re-illumined a spark of hope and pleasure in her breast: she rallied herself on the bed, and a few moments presented to her view count Bryoff, habited in the garment of a friar.

Laurine sprang forward to meet him, he embraced her, and without noticing the darkness in which he found her, and which he might perhaps imagine the best effected

in compliance with his instructions, he immediately assisted her to muffle herself in his robe; which he had on the first night left in that apartment, and then told her to follow him with all possible celerity.

The count had reached the door of the apartment, when, stopping back, he took the dagger from the table, and thrusting it in his under girdle, again commanded Laurette to follow him closely, and proceeded swiftly along.

Laurette followed her father's steps in silence; and by the light of a lamp which he held, she perceived that he was re-ascending the very same private stair-case by which he had led her to the dungeon from the cell she quitted. She remarked that he took considerably

or his countenance was expelled the wildest anxiety.

Bruno arrived in the glen, ere Ilyrcil threw down the harp to extinguish it; and having thrust up the nostrils of the raven, he hastened home which had been fattened to a thump of a tree that was in, and having led the animal on the level ground, he mounted it, and taking up Lauretta before him, he clapped spurs to the beast, and they galloped swiftly forwards.

They proceeded nearly a league in silence, except when it was broken by the count addressing himself to his lovely companion; at length Lauretta ventured to inquire, in a low accent, "Whither they were going?" "You shall presently direct our

ruin," returned the count; — "but be silent now, I enjoin you: some one may be concealed amidst these trees." Laurette obeyed her father's injunctions; but as the petition but too often breeds suspicion, she could not forbear turning her eyes by turns on all sides, and watching every shadow as she passed it, fearing it should wear the form of man, and often conjecturing she beheld what she feared.

It was one of those nights when the waning moon sinks to the horizon full and crimson, and sullen rays of fire upon the objects over which perspective loses its power is inexpressible; and as the travellers entered a [illegible] which they had been perhaps [illegible] burst upon their view. The scene was [illegible] and Laurette followed

to escape her thoughts; — at intervals a clump of trees concealed it from her sight, and the next moment its pencil light danced momentarily there amidst the breaks of the evergreen branches; — again it dazzled its full splendor upon her sight, and again its intervening bulwarks, whose gilded crests reminded her where it was shrouded, lost it from her eyes; — gradually its reflected beams paled on a crooked lake, along whose bank they were pouring, and then again streamed on the polar leaves of the elm, formed for a time to circle its branches with pearl hues: — at length as night crept over the landscape, it imperceptibly sank under the horizon, gradually fading from the surrounding objects the gilded hue which it had lately won to beautify them.

After travelling three hours and a half, the

count and Laurence arrived at a mean cottage. In a few minutes its door was opened in compliance with the request of the count, and to inhabitants, a middle-aged man, and a lad his son, despatch to arise, readily granted admittance to the count and his daughter.

The count quickly entered from them a promise that they would not on any treatment suffer any person to enter the cottage whilst he remained in it, or confess that any stranger was concealed within it, should inquiry be made of them. He then privately opened one side readily from the inside of the large ground by which he effected to leave their dwelling, and from thence learned his attendants, taking no notice of their absence, should they happen here, for he knew that immediately and direct to inform that he was

a brother of some religious order, a circumstance which the count plainly perceived, and in which, from his acquaintance with the mental superstition of the lower ranks of people in that part of the country, he placed his chief dependence for ensuring such secrecy as he should require during the intervals in which he judged it expedient to interrupt his journey.

Having seen his horse fully followed, the count questioned Laurette, whether she wished to compose herself to sleep; but she declared that her mind was too strongly agitated to allow her to seek repose for her body: the count then kissed on her a wish that she would unfold to him the history of her life; she inwardly lamented that he had not first offered to communicate his own, but considering that his curiosity must be as

strongly awakened as hers, in compliance with the obedience due to her father, she immediately acquiesced in his wish; and having retired with him to the only apartment of which the cottage consisted, in addition to that occupied by the shepherd and his son, he informed him of every particular that had occurred to her from the full moment of her entrance into the world, to that on which he had relieved her in the wood from Tremaine and his accomplice.

CHAP. XIV.

Who is the fittest of men to be put [illegible]
The cruelest knives of logic, [illegible]
And [illegible] by breaking [illegible] upon him
The third day comes a frost, a killing frost,
And [illegible] that [illegible] fully runs, dies [illegible]
His greatness is a ripening, nips his root,
And then he falls, as I do.

KING HENRY VIII.

In relating the occurrences of her own life, Laurena premised not to lay before the [illegible] particulars of her unexpected [illegible] to that of her deceased mother; and she [illegible] which the last on the declaration of her mother's innocence, with regard to the [illegible] which had been raised against her, on account of her supposed acquaintance with count Frederic Colmsburg, her

lish and only love, seemed much to affect him.

"Oh!" exclaimed count Dyroff, "had she but explained to me the flaw of her scent, we might now have both been happy, and I free from guilt."

A short silence ensued: the count then said, "Now, my child, attend to the tale of thy father's fortunes, and learn from thence that the commission of one rash and unpardonable deed on the human heart is sometimes most direful from its consequences.

"My father and my father were the only children of two gentlemen, whose [illegible] fortunes [illegible] were [illegible] of [illegible] about twenty leagues [illegible] [illegible] but as fortune is apt always to give

companion of rank, his narrow circumstances had obliged him to retire from the splendour of the court.

"My aunt had the good fortune to captivate an Italian marchese of immense property, and having received her hand in marriage, he carried her with him into Italy.

"My father married a woman of rank, whose circumstances were but too much in the situation of his own; he did not many years survive his union with the woman of his heart, and dying, left my mother and myself, his only child, to the protection of my grandfather.

"Many unforeseen and cruel misfortunes had occurred to lessen the small property the old count possessed, and by his death, which

happened just as I had attained my eighteenth year, I found the fortune which had devolved on me slender indeed. My mother and myself, however, resolved to live retired from the world, and by frugality to increase that little stock which my rank in life forbade me to attempt any other means of increasing.

"How weak are the prejudices by which we suffer ourselves to be ruled!

"A few years after the death of my grandfather a letter arrived in Germany from my aunt, informing us that her husband was dead, that the greater part of his property had devolved on her by his will, and inviting my mother and myself to [illegible] and settle with her.

"Being a paternal estate on which we had resided, it would have been deemed a disgrace to a nobleman to sell it; we accordingly left Germany without assigning any reason for our departure.

"My aunt, the marchesa del Parmo, who resided in an elegant mansion in one of the most eligible spots in Vienna, received us with the warmest cordiality, and extended towards us the most friendly attentions, but my mother lived only a short time to be comfort of the marchesa's kindness. On her death my aunt feared to divide her affections to me, for told me, that she had resolved never to marry again, and should, with the exception of a few legacies, leave me her whole property; I expressed my sorrow to her at being found to the

extensive property she had made me: for then told me, that she had provided for me a tutor, with whom she wished me to travel for a couple of years, before I formed any plan of settling in the world. She at this time was well acquainted with my attachment to your mother, which had begun a very short time after my arrival in Italy; and she as well as myself imagined that my attentions were far from being unfavourably received by her.

"The youthful mind pants for novelty, and the offer made me by my aunt was too fascinating not to induce me for a time period to forego the society of my Laurette, flattering myself that from the improvement of travel I should return more worthy of her; for the marchesa having spoken in my favour to count Ariemo, he had immediate-

ly assented to my proposal of espousing his daughter.

"When I had been absent from Italy about eighteen months I received a letter from the marchesa's steward, informing me that she had died suddenly, and had left me her sole heir.

"I immediately returned to Venice to take possession of my newly-acquired fortune, and had arrived there only a few hours when count Arrivo paid me a joint visit of condolence on the loss of my aunt, and congratulation on my acquisition of fortune. Before his departure he reminded me of the verbal contract subsisting between me relative to his daughter, and at the same time expressed, if I observed a dejectedness in her manner, not to notice it, as I should only

renew an acute sorrow which had been preying on her spirits since the sudden death of an intimate friend, and which was now gradually wearing off.

"I readily acquiesced in a proposition which I imagined would conduce to the tranquillity of her I loved; and on visiting my Lauretta I was fearfully awaked by the frown of grief which I observed fixed on her languid countenance; I endeavoured to sooth her sorrow without reverting to its cause. I could not forbear noticing the striking change in one so tenderly beloved; she wept, and doubtless misconstrued the meaning of my words, as I did the cause of her sorrow.

"When my soothing, I remarked that her father always returned in the afternoon

with us. I saw for the cause of a conduct which then much surprised me; he knew the awe in which his daughter stood of him, and by his presence resolved to prevent an explanation on her side from taking place.

"Curses on the foolishness of a father, who dooms his child to misery, that he may swell his own proud coffers!"

"I now never saw count Ariano, that he did not advance arguments to induce me to hasten my marriage, which, from my regard to the recent death of my aunt the marchesa, I had thought it consistent with propriety some time to defer. In a short time, however, his restrictions, from their contradiction with my real feelings, provoked my remarks, and I was moved to paint my sister.

"After the solemnization of our marriage, count Ariano insisted that we should pass at least a couple of months at his mansion: his reason, I then thought, was his averseness to part from his daughter: I now perceive that he wished to keep her under his own eye, in order that he might be the better able to inspect her conduct, which he was well aware his cruelty had given him reason to suspect, and which he intended immediately to communicate to me.

"I did every means in my power to restore to your mother that cheerfulness which had once been her never-failing companion, but a fixed melancholy, which I found impossible for me to dissipate, had taken possession of her mind.

"Six weeks after our marriage, I again

mentioned to count Ariano, as I had before frequently done, my uneasiness at the unhappy state of my wife; and he then confessed to me, that he had but too much reason to believe I had an unworthy but favoured rival in the heart of his daughter.

"This was a blow which struck at once at the root of my happiness and pride: the whole mystery of count Ariano's interested conduct was in one moment exposed to my view, and I looked with contempt on the wretch who had made a traffic of his child.

"He now declared to me all the particulars of your mother's affection for count Fortenbourg, was lavish in his praises of himself, both for the parental authority he had exerted over his daughter, and for that management which had made me his fa-

law. — He was the wretch who could pride himself on having, by one ſtroke of keen deceit, ſtamped the miſery of an only child, and inveigled me into a ſtate of eternal ſuſpicion and unhappineſs.

" I upbraided him with his baſe conduct — he liſtened to me whilſt I ſpoke, and ſmiled, as one ſecure in the completion of his own wiſh, and regardleſs of the fate of others! when I ſtopped ſpeaking,

" ' What proveth you to be yourſelf an this rival?' he cried.

" ' Whither can I fly from him?' I returned—' No where, but where he can ſo low.'

" ' End him!'—exclaimed Aver-

"I had never yet drawn my sword against a fellow-creature, and I shuddered at the idea.

"Ariano perceived it; and, pretending to finish a sentence which he had left uncompleated, he said, — 'or suffer patiently that infamy which the world will attach to a man who tamely bears dishonour in the tenderest point.'

"His imputation on my honour pierced my heart.

"'Give me proof of your suspicions,' I returned, 'and I will instantly challenge him.'

"'You shall have proof, full assured,' he

answered, and with these words he left the room.

"To what a state of misery had this intelligence reduced me!—to learn that I was an object of abhorrence to the woman in whom I had placed my hopes of future happiness, and the victim of the joint pride and avarice of her father.

"Still, however, I resolved to bear my feelings in silence till the promised proof was produced to me: at one time doubting the truth of count Ariano's assertion, and at another, fearing I saw it fully confirmed; and alike defying the sole author of my doubts, whichever opinion swayed my mind.

"About a fortnight after my last interview

future with count Ariano on the subject of my anxiety, he one day entered the apartment where I was sitting, with an open letter in his hand; he seated himself, and thus addressed me: — 'I yesterday morning gave out that you and myself should this evening set out on a short excursion into the country, from which we should not return in two or three days; the object of my having said this you will clearly perceive, when I tell you, that it has answered my expectation in producing this epistle, which I have contrived to intercept.'

"He gave the letter into my hand; and, to my extreme mortification, I read in it an invitation to count Colmadury from your mother, written by her own hand, to come [illegible] that evening at her aunt's.

"Count Ariens, when I had concluded reading the letter, which I several times perused ere I could convince myself that my senses were not deceived in what I had read, proceeded to inform me in what manner he had gained it from the servant entrusted by my wife, and what means he had taken to prevent his return to his employer.

"I listened to him without attempting to speak, for my feelings were unutterable; and I was on the point of tearing the fatal letter to atoms, when he hastily sprang from his seat, and snatching it out of my hand,—'Hold!' he exclaimed, 'on this depends our hopes of vengeance.' He again seated himself at the table; and having folded the note as it had before been, he summoned into the apartment a trusty servant, to whom he com-

fidant to carry the epiſtle to him to whom it was directed.

"Still abſorbed in thought, my ſilence had been broken only by heavy ſighs, till, on the ſervant's quitting the room, the count aſked, 'Whether I had perceived what he had done?'

"I told him that I had, and inquired what purpoſe he meant to anſwer by it.

"'Count Colverburg,' he replied, 'will doubtleſs attend to the invitation given him for this evening; he muſt neceſſarily paſs through a dark lane in his way to my ſiſter's, which is the place of appointment with your wife, it muſt therefore be our buſineſs to provide thoſe who will there way-lay him.' Such

may eaſily be found, and ſuch as may be relied on.—We ourſelves muſt leave the city at the hour I had mentioned; we ſhould ſet out; thus ſuſpicion will be bamboozled, and your rival fall an eaſy prey into the ſnare you will have ſpread for him.'

"I heard him pronounce theſe words with very different emotions from what I probably ſhould have done had I been an Italian:—when he ſtopped ſpeaking, I exclaimed, 'If he deſerves death, why ſhould I fear to be myſelf his puniſher? If there be a palliation for ſhedding human blood, it ſurely is in behalf of him whoſe injuries loudly call for revenge: why then ſhould I compaſſionate man or become criminal,—and by paying the price of blood, add to the guilt that would fall on mine, in leaving without

of him to become the instrument of an act wherein I should in reality be the agent?'

'It was some time before I could reconcile myself to Arseno, living in a country where the performance of murder is alike venal with other acts of hire, to listen to the arguments I advanced in favour of my being myself the subduer of my wrongs, and before I could prevail on him to promise to accompany me in the evening to the dark lane through which he had informed me count Colentaro must inevitably pass in his way to the house of appointment with your mother: at length he promised to point it out to me, and we parted till the hour arrived at which Arseno had given out the preceding day that we should set out on our journey, we then mounted our beasts, and rode to a small

house about a quarter of a league out of the city, the habitation of a man who had formerly lived in the service of the count, and where we had pre-determined to leave our horses, and in the dusk of the evening return to the city on foot.

"We arrived at the dark lane nearly half an hour before the time mentioned in your mother's letter.—I drew my sword, and we placed ourselves under the shade of a low portico.—In a short time we heard footsteps.—A person muffled up in a cloak advanced rapidly towards us, count Arezzo whispered me, 'Tis he, 'tis the count himself.'—I immediately sprung forward to meet him, and in the name of a villain I called upon him to defend himself against the vengeance of an injured husband!—He made a blow at my head with a four cane which

he held in his hand, and attempted to ruſh paſt me; but I quickly ſtepped back a few paces, and received his body on the point of my ſword: he inſtantly fell, with a deep groan, and diſtant voices at the ſame moment aſſailing the ears of count Ariano and myſelf, we fled with all poſſible ſpeed, I to the count's manſion, and he to the houſe of his father, where he expected to find your mother, and from thence to re-conduct her to his own.

"What miſery did I then right experience, on entering the apartment to which your mother had been conveyed on her return to her father's houſe! how did the cries and upbraidings of her agonized heart wound me, although I conceived myſelf to have been ſo deeply injured by her! — She confeſſed to me all her love for count Frederic,

not called on heaven to witness how free she was from the imputation of guilt laid upon her by me and her father. — I hardly dared credit what she affirmed; and yet so forcibly did the recollection of the ardent passion I once bore her plead for her in my heart, that I endeavoured, by every attention and every promise of future regard, to lull her into the oblivion of him she had lost, by fixing her mind on the affections of him she retained, fully resolving in my own mind, if she ever ceased to upbraid me with the loss of some fortune, again to take her to my bosom, and ofer every means of proving to her she had replaced in an equally tender and affectionate lover.

" She then might altogether succeed to [illegible] in my own; and I left her chamber with a mind as deeply [illegible] as her own

"Towards evening on the following day, I had again been endeavouring by repeated attentions to win on the heart I had embittered with sorrow, when I was summoned from my painful yet willing task, by count Arrivo calling to me hastily to descend to him.

"I immediately went to him, and he in a few words informed me, that count Frederic had escaped; and that the person whom I had killed on the preceding evening, proved to be the son of one of the first senators: that five thousand zechins were offered to reward any one who might apprehend the murderer; and the punishment of exile and confiscation of property denounced by the laws of Venice against those who might be acquainted with the perpetrator of

the murder, and delay to deliver him into the hands of justice.

"What were my feelings on being informed that I was the murderer of an innocent man! I cannot describe, or you conceive; pain, poverty, sickness, loss of friends, or any other misery in its most aggravated form, and even all these combined, can give no faint idea of the pangs he feels, who has shed blood, which even the effusion of his own cannot re-animate.

"'Now,' had some Arbaces said, who would that friend prove, who would undertake to relieve you from the dangers hovering round you?'

"If I were apprehended, alone, I well knew, would be my doom; but should I as

that moment could have received with ecstasy from any hand but that of the executioner: from dying on a public scaffold my heart, humbled as I felt myself, recoiled, and I eagerly answered, 'Every thing.'

"'Then,' told he, 'I will be that friend.—Now attend to the means: should you be apprehended for this crime, you are well assured your entire property becomes confiscate to the state.'

"I replied, that I was fully convinced it did.

"'Your safety,' he continued, 'depends on you immediately flying from the country, in such case, it is impossible you can collect the value of your possessions in so short a time as it is necessary for you to be-

part, in order to carry them with you; what you leave behind you in your own name, will be immediately confiscated: thus make over to me your personals, by far the greater division of your property; leave your estate open to confiscation, as some small atonement for your offence; make your disappearance instantly, while it yet remains in your power to effect it; and depend on my remitting to you what you shall make over to me, as soon as you shall have reached a place of safety.'

"There was a kindness in this offer of [illegible] to risk so many thousands, that made me overlook his past conduct; and with thanks I acquiesced in his proposition, and quickly proceeded to put it in execution.

"I had scarcely put my hand and seal to the deed which transferred to count Arveno my personal property, dispersed through many parts of Italy, when information was brought us by the physician who had attended your mother, that she had fled from her father's house. The count seemed to receive the tidings with indifference; and I was too much occupied by my own safety to give any further thought to what I had heard, than that the last learned count Colombini's existence, and found means of stopping to him.

"A few hours afterwards I set out from the Venetian territories, and in little more than a week I arrived in Paris, the place where I had determined to seek shelter from the laws of Venice, as I had conducted, from

the number of spies I well knew to be employed by that State, I should soon be discovered to be the perpetrator of the deed on which I shuddered to reflect.

"On the day after my arrival, I wrote to count Ariano to inform him of the place of my retreat; I thought it unnecessary to add that an immediate remittance would be welcome to me, as he well knew that I had taken with me only what cash I happened to have in my pocket-book at the time of my departure, and a few trinkets of small value.

"In about three weeks I received from him a letter the purport of which, to my great astonishment, and, I blush to add, abasement, knowing what I already did of his villainous character, was briefly in the following words:—That the first half year

ed information of my being the affiduous of the Count's fon, and had accordingly conſid-ered fuch of my property as was publickly known to be mine; that he lamented this diſcovery having fo early taken place, as it would inevitably prevent his being to me the friend he had pleaſed himſelf to be; for that, as a Venetian nobleman, he ſtood upon the brink of death, by being known to aſſiſt any man now lying under the penalty of its laws; and could accordingly only lend me his thanks on leaving, as the laſt teſtimony he paſſed between us on the morning of my leaving Venice, given him the power of remitting by a bill of money which could never again on my return be paid, and which would otherwiſe have fallen to the uſe of the ſtate.

"Unlucky fortune!" I exclaimed, as

parading this internal quality, [illegible] in [illegible] the [illegible] of this [illegible] that he intimates not privately to pleasure?" —Oh! my child, how many villains wear the mask of worth like him, and with the garb of office, cover a heart which knows no interest but its own; and contemplates no crime, of which an accumulation of its private wealth and pride will not seem to authorise the performance!"

The pastor paused a moment, then continued — "The latter part of the same evening, on a review of the villany of that man, [illegible] [illegible], [illegible] [illegible] [illegible], compelled me to draw out [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] is [illegible]: for [illegible] I [illegible] wrong in [illegible], that he [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] by the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

cannot lay aside his nature when he acts for the public.

"To what a situation was I now reduced! my whole property consisting of only fifteen zechins, and too large a small value, without the possible means of recovering what had so lately been wrested from me, or of taking redress from him who had so deeply injured me, without exposing myself to the greatest of dangers; — in a city where I was an entire stranger; without a friend to whom I could apply for assistance; without an acquaintance to whose conversation I could fly for a momentary relief of my painful feelings, and without a single thought that would afford me a momentary consolation within my own breast!

"My first step, however, was to avoid

devotion, as I knew not what power the friar at Verona might have of unravelling my practice, should my retreat be discovered; and moreover feared that Annot, to relieve us herself the pollution of my presence, might give information to the friar where I was fled, and have me apprehended: that, by any device, the casket of the evil spirit being what was to me most precious, might be done away: but then upon consideration, that he would be well aware that, in case of such an accusation from him, revenge would prompt me to declare the fact, rather than lose, for the pollution of that property I was myself deemed to forego, and also removed my fears of any further machinations from him: but, at all events, judging it not advantageous to divulge myself as much as possible, I changed my habit to that of the country I was now in, and called myself Monville, re-

loving till to remain in Paris, as the place where I was most likely to escape observation, well knowing that I should be most free from espionage in the midst of a crowd.

"I had taken a lodging in an obscure part of the city, and my only amusement was the frequenting of a tavern in the neighbourhood, much resorted to by young men, who, though perhaps not in the most exalted stations of life, were however men of fashion and fortune.

"Every evening they met, in a greater or smaller number, at this house, and drought was their entertainment: as a stranger, I was kindly received by them, and in-[illegible] regale; I knew myself to be an object to the genius, and thus readily accepted their

[illegible] The [illegible] they [illegible] were not large, or I could not have intended an engagement. I found some my equals in play, and when I engaged with them, good and bad fortune were alternately mine, but as my play was far superior to the generality of those who engaged with me, and as my circumstances, as I was sometimes tempted to think, induced me to play more attention on my part than my adversary usually gave to his, I was commonly, at the hour of return, the winner of a trifling sum; a circumstance which in my heedless [illegible] of the most [illegible] and promising nature was productive [illegible] but as the case was, so to be expected, and in the course of [illegible] I was [illegible] many [illegible] pounds. I was began to turn my thoughts to a subject to which they had never [illegible]

whether I should pursue my means of discovering the retreat of your mother, and of revenging myself on the destroyer of my peace.

"After many debates with my own heart, I drew this conclusion:—'Will the death of count Cohenburg restore my peace?—No!—Will it not add guilt to hands already too deeply imbrued in blood?—It will!—Can I hope that my wife will be to me what she ought to be?—No!—Why then seek after her who flees me, and add another sting to an already wounded conscience, by the murder of one whose death cannot restore my lost tranquility?'

"Having resolved that it behoved me to forget an object lately so dear to me, my mind became more calm; for, when an ob-

mon is once firmly eloped, every subsequent thought seems to strengthen the justness of that opinion.

" When my thoughts at times did turn back to your mother, amidst the censures my injuries raised against her in my heart, I still felt a portion of pity for one who had been driven to despair by the cruelty of an unfeeling parent. — For that parent, when my mind reverted to him and his ofspring, alas! it did, I felt the abhorrence I should have done against a demon. — ' Is it possible,' I would cry, ' the earth can contain a monster capable of his accumulated crimes! — the murderer of an only child to his avarice! — the hater of a youth into a peregrine into which he had deceived his fancy! — the villainous of that youth, when become his daughter's husband, to murder him who

might so have pulled her hand! — the mother of that youth's progress, by the chair of that fach which can alone lead man to man; and by the same act, the plunderer of that time, whose rights he had pledged his most solemn vow and his to defend!"

CHAP. XV.

What equal torment to the pains of absence
And passing anguish hid in gentle breast
Than vainly seeking help in grievous case
Thus silly maid herself with thoughts mistakes,
And wasteth her own cankerous mind?

SPENSER.

Conyer Byrkdale was now interrupted by the entrance of the old shepherd, who, having just returned from milking, the good matron had brought the travellers a bowl of warm milk. The scene commanded his attention, and Laurana drying those tears which had been drawn into her eyes by her sympathy at the misfortunes of him who had given her being, drank of the milk, and found herself much refreshed by it; the room did the

time; and the peasant seeing well pleased at the satisfaction expressed by his guests in their acknowledgments of his kindness, Count Rysoff thus went on.

"I had resided nearly two years in Paris, when, returning one day from walking in the fauxbourg of the city, two men, whom I had for some time perceived to be observing me, followed me into the house where I lodged, and introduced themselves into my apartment. On their entrance I raised a look at them which as plainly inquired their business with me, as if I had demanded it in open words. 'You must go with us, Monsieur, if you please:' said one of them. — 'Whither?' I instantly asked. — The man who had before spoken, replied to my question, by drawing from his pocket a paper folded at one corner, which he held out to

my view with one hand, whilst he pointed to it with the other. On seeing the paper, it immediately flashed upon my mind that these men were emissaries sent in pursuit of me from the state of Venice; but guess my astonishment when I learnt that the fatal paper was a *lettre de cachet* to convey me to the Bastile.

"The two men hurried me into a carriage, the blinds of which were drawn up: we rolled rapidly through the streets, and in a short time I felt myself pulling over the drawbridge which leads to the mansion of wanton tyranny and despair.

"When the carriage stopped, I was taken from it by two men whose countenances I had no better beheld, and conducted through a paved court humanized by a jolly

wall, into the full flood of their looking, the bare glimpse of which took away my blood. Alas! how far was I then from considering I was myself about to pass in solitude within these.

"Through two other halls and many intricate passages, my guards conducted me, till, arrived at an iron door which was nearly at the end of a long gallery terminated by a narrow window, through which the iron bars, fattened across it, suffered but a small portion of light to enter, they stopped; and the door being unlocked by a person who had met us in the second hall, and from thence preceded us, and whom I afterwards found to be the governor, I was commanded to enter, and the door was locked upon me. A small lonely room presented itself to my sight; a broken table, a stool, a mattress,

and a quilt were my only furniture: the walls, which had been of plaster, were tumbling away in many parts, and in others being covered with a green mould, confirmed me in the dampness of the place, which the chill that had seized me on entering it had first caused me to remark.

"The dullness of the hour now gave me room for reflecting on my situation. I could form no conjecture for the cause of my present confinement, except that of the fear of Venice having found a power of unveiling my person for a crime committed within its dominions, even after I had quitted them; but this supposition appeared so repugnant to the idea that I had always been taught to entertain that the authority of every state was bounded by the limits of its territories that I could not remain in any mind [illegible]

till I could discern not even the shadow of any other mode for my future continuance.

"I was now in how slight and even fatally great a measure it is in the power of acting against the government many unhappy men had been condemned to waste away a life of solitude and misery within the dreary and unrelenting walls within which I was now a prisoner; but I was to endeavour that the little interest I had felt in the public affairs of a kingdom where I was an entire stranger, had led me still less ever to join in a conversation of which they had been the topic; that I felt no desire in my innocence on that point, to give it a flavour of guilt connected with my present misfortunes.

"For some hours I wandered about my prison in that state of torpor which is pe-

[illegible] the most acute suffering the mind can undergo; towards evening a small portion of bread and water was brought me by a man who appeared to be an inferior jailor, and who immediately left my apartment on having placed my scanty pittance on the table.

"As night fell on, the horrors of my situation seemed to accumulate: there was only one window in my prison, and it was strongly grated with iron bars; I placed the stool under it, and having got upon it, I perceived that the window looked into a court, similar to the one through which I had fallen when conducting in my person.

"Night passed in unavailing sighs and wailings, but morning brought back my reason with another scanty portion of the same

fore that had been brought me by him on preceding evening.

"Thus pulled on three days without any interruption of my business or solitude, save the morning and evening visit of my jailor: for the first two days I had put to him many questions relative to my situation, but as his able answer had been a shake of the head, sometimes accompanied by a fine smile, I desisted from my inquiries.

"On the fourth morning the governor, accompanied by two guards, entered my prison. 'You must take the air to-day,' he said, 'or your health will be injured by your confinement.' The guards took me between them, and followed him out of the apartment into the gallery; he descended

the first flight of steps, crossed a floor pas-
sage, and then ascending a few more steps,
at the top of which was an iron door, he
opened it, and I was led by my guards upon
a platform of about twelve feet square, low
walls closely surrounded by other parts of the
buildings, that no object except the sky was
discernible from it.

"The guards stationed themselves on
each side of the door; the governor had
gained the middle of the platform: I went
up to him, and besought him to instruct me
of the reasons of my confinement; he re-
fused to answer me, and immediately left the
platform. The guards were left with me,
and I tried to draw them into conversation,
but my efforts were ineffectual. In about
half an hour the governor again appeared on
the platform, and I was immediately recon-

ducted to my prison in the same manner as I had been led from it.

"Every fourth day I was let out to take the air and exercise allowed to me; and with this sole interruption of my solitude, I crept on seven weary months.

"One morning, about this time my prison-door was opened, and the governor and two of his guards entered, not a little to my surprise, as I had visited the platform the day before; the guards took me between them, and following the governor as on other occasions, conducted me into a large hall, where at the upper end of the table a man, who, I was given to understand, was the lieutenant de police, and below him the two other persons. I was placed at the lower end of the table, an oath that I should

thither only the truth was administered to me by the secretary: and the lieutenant then said to me, 'You call yourself, Monville?'

"'I do.'

"'Is it your real name?'

"I hesitated to answer; and he continued, 'Remember you are on oath. Is it your real name? I ask.'

"'It is not.'

"'What is your real name?'

"'I have particular reasons for willing to conceal it.'

"'More than ordinarily,' said the lieu-

room, addressing himself to the Secretary; and then said to me, 'Are you a Frenchman?'

"'No.'

"'You are an Italian?'

"'No.'

"'Do not attempt to deceive me, or it will be the worse for you. You by your are not an Italian?'

"'I am not.'

"'But you came from Italy to Paris?'

"'I did.'

"'How long have you been in France?'

"'Twenty-two months, exclusive of the seven I have passed here.'

"'What brought you to Paris?'

"'My motive I must decline mentioning.'

"'You know it does so be a criminal one?'

"'Why should you draw that inference?'

"'You are an artist, are you not?' said the gentleman. He whispered the same words to his lady: they turned over the leaves of a book—they looked at the drawings, pointed to different parts of various pages—again they whispered, and

the lieutenant rose about me, 'By what means I was supported?'

"'Does any one accuse me of gaining my means unjustly?' I said.

"'I shall on a third time warn you that you are here to answer, and not to question,' said the lieutenant. 'How are you supported?'

"'I brought money with me from Italy.'

"After many other questions of a similar nature, and which in the aggregate seemed to me to amount to little, though on some of them the lieutenant had laid great stress, I was re-minded to my power, equally ignorant of the charge on which I was arraigned as when I was entered in

"About two months after I was again summoned to appear in the hall as before, the oath was administered as on the preceding occasion, and the lieutenant began by asking me many questions, even more trivial than the former ones had been; at length, flaring from the train of questions in which he was advancing, he said, 'On your former examination, you confidently asserted, I think, an Italian.'

"'I did not.'

"'You answered recollect then to [illegible] employed by that state?'

"'I did not.'

"'You [illegible] from Italy.'

"'I did.'

"'And that your motive for causing Imlay was a criminal one.'

"'You draw that inference, but I can not subscribe to it.'

"'Why did you not confute it by a declaration of the truth?'

"'May I, before I answer this demand, make one myself?'

"'You cannot oblige us to answer it, though we can force you to reply to ours.'

"'Admirable administration of justice!' hung on my tongue: but I stifled my emotion, and said, 'Am I permitted to ask one question?'

"'Name it.'

"'On what charge am I here a prisoner?'

"The lieutenant de police, and the man on his right hand, whispered together two minutes, and the lieutenant then said, 'You stand here arraigned of being employed by a foreign power as a spy upon this government.'

"'By all my hopes of heaven the accusation is falsely founded,' I cried.

"'Where are your proofs?'

"'You shall have them.'

"The lieutenant smiled [illegible]

"The innocence of my heart, however, in regard to the conclusion now supposing against me, could not save me from the imputation of connivance with malefactors; and knowing myself how near to be ruined at the infliction of the Rue de Venise, I comparatively felt no fear in confiding a crime committed against it, when I hoped by disclosing it to free myself from my present alarming situation; and I immediately related such parts of my story as related to Jane my motive for having taken up my abode in Paris.

"When I had concluded my story—'We will inquire into the truth of this,' said the lieutenant; and, making a signal to the guards, I was then led to my prison.

"For some time I felt myself comparatively happy, as I could now depend upon

[illegible] result of the protracted inquiry; but as the mind, in reflecting on any painful subject, [illegible] to the tide of hope and fear, I began to apprehend, that the fate of Venice [illegible] in consequence of the lieutenant's inquiries concerning me, [illegible] my previous [illegible] might lead means, as I was in prison, of having me returned there for the crime I had really committed, though I might be absolved of that under which I was now lying falsely accused.

"Eight months elapsed in an alternate succession of fear and expectation, before I was again summoned to appear in the hall; and the result of what then passed was, that no satisfactory circumstances of the story I had related having been procured by those employed for that purpose by the [illegible]

the sale I had just made was deemed either to have been formed by myself for my own gratification, or an invention dictated to me by the Duke of Vizzo when commissioned to go into France, and which I had been commanded to account in case of my being apprehended, as an excuse for my ambiguous conduct; and that the space of two days only would be allowed me to consider whether I preferred, by confessing my real character, to throw myself on the mercy of my judges, or, by persisting in my threat, to provoke them to draw from me the truth by torture.

"In answer to this decree, I could only repeat, in the most solemn terms, my innocence of the fact of which they accused me.

"They twice calmly heard my declarations without interruption, but I could clearly

perceive that their opinions were decided, and that either they were not, or would not be, moved by my vows and affirmations.

"On entering my prison I threw myself on my mattrass, and amidst the horrors that seemed to await me, the only idea which rendered me to look forward with a degree of calmness and resignation to the fate with which I was threatened, was, that the unjust punishment I was about to suffer might be accepted by him who alone could read my heart, in expiation of the innocent blood I had shed.

"At length the day big to me with terror and agony arrived; at an early hour I was once more led into the hall, and the lieutenant again inquired, 'Whether my

[illegible] had related, and I was willing to confess my crime?"

"I reiterated my vows and afſeverations of innocence; but they and my prayers for mercy were heard with equal indifference, and I was dragged into that earthly hell, where demons, in the ſhape of men, riot in acts of wanton cruelty.

"Innumerable inſtruments of torture, of which I knew not the uſe, but fearec too ſoon to learn it of each I beheld, were ſuſpended againſt the walls, and ſcattered on the floor. At one end was an immenſe fire, which, notwithſtanding its ſize, two men, whoſe ſavage countenances were by no means the leaſt terrific features of this ſoul-harrowing ſcene, were feeding with every provocative of fiercenefs.

"Again it was recommended to me to confess ere it was too late, and again I could only repeat, however incredulous were my hearers, that I had nothing to confess.

"I was then placed in a chair, and a circle of about three inches in diameter on the top of my head flayed bare of its hair.

"The soles of my feet and my breast were afterwards bared, and being fastened in the chair, it was drawn near to the fire, to the fierceness of which the naked parts of my body were exposed, whilst large drops of the coldest water were made to fall singly on the crown of my head.

"In a few minutes the pangs produced

by the conceit of finding I was undergoing, became so intense that I shrieked violently. The lieutenant approached me, and asked, 'if I was willing to end my punishment by confession?'

"Had I at the moment been able to have conceived any other means of freeing myself from the sufferings I was enduring, I should without hesitation have adopted it; but I was well aware, that if, to alleviate myself at the present moment, I uttered a false confession, I could not afterwards retract it, and that I should in the end probably only suffer the more severely for having allowed their false accusation to be a just one; I therefore only continued to declare my innocence, and in the most moving terms to supplicate for mercy.

"In a quarter of an hour's time the torture inflicted on me became agonizing, past all endurance, and I besought my tormentors to give me death: my hands and feet were bound, I had bit my tongue, till the blood streamed from my mouth upon my breast; and my eyes, which the pain I was undergoing had widely extended, from being exposed to the fierceness of the fire, were far from forming the least part of my sufferings.

"Every moment was now so forcibly diminishing the powers of nature, that the physician, who had been brought to announce to my tormentors when I had undergone what my frame could endure, commanded me to be gradually removed from the fire, and the water to cease dropping. I had been drawn back only a few feet,

when, exhausted by the agony I had endured, the little strength I had remaining fled from me, and I fainted whilst yet bound in the chair of torture."

CHAP. XVI.

Each substance of a grief hath twenty shadows,
Which show like grief itself, but are not so:
For sorrow's eye, glazed with blinding tears,
Divides one thing entire to many objects;
Like perspectives, which, rightly gazed upon,
Show nothing but confusion; ey'd awry,
Distinguish form.

KING RICHARD II.

"On recovering, I found myself lying on my mattrass: a blinker had been added to my quilt; and the physician, on my again opening my eyes, administered to me a cup of wine, the first variation of my daily food of bread and water that had passed my lips since my entrance into the Bastile.

"For seventeen the physician remained

to visit me; and having youth and strength on my side, in a month's time I began to recover the use of my bodily and mental faculties, both of which had been much injured by what I had undergone. The greatest cause of remembrance that remained to me of what was past, was the weakness of my eyes when they met the light.

"Nine lie months passed ere I was again led out to the platform for air, and I even then found my limbs very inadequate to the task of supporting me more than a few minutes at a time.

"Day rolled on after day, and month after month, but still I received no information whether what I had undergone was deemed a sufficient confirmation of my innocence, or not; and as I was still retained a

prisoner, I kept looking forward with increasing apprehension to a trial more severe than the one I had already passed through.

"I must here mention a circumstance which, however trivial it may appear to you, dwells on my mind, and seems to claim my attention.

"Nearly a year had elapsed since my undergoing the torture, when one morning a small part of the window having been left open to air my prison, a red-breast flew into the apartment, and perching on the table, began to peck the bread which had just been brought me as half my day's provision. I approached a few steps towards it, that I might the better observe it; for in my present situation, any object which engaged my attention, afforded for a moment an agree-

pected happiness. I perceived that it was me, and I flapped, but I should alone a away, but the food seemed to be a greater attraction than my presence was a taste of fear, and, to my satisfaction, it went on pecking the bread.

"Its plumage was rough, and could scarcely be cold, and it bore every mark of having suffered from the inclemency of the season, which was that of a severe frost, a deep snow had some time covered the ground, and the eagerness with which it preyed on its newly-found prize, showed that the weather had proved to it, while feeble there were unable to turn up the depth of snow, a season of famine.

"I paused to for what it had suffered, and participated in its present apparently great

fatisfaction;—'Yet, poor foolifh wanderer!' I cried, 'thy native timidity, when the call of nature is fatisfied, will again drive thee to the piercing cold and hunger from which thou haft now found protection!—Thou art not wife enough to return to dyfhli and mayeft perhaps perifh for want of that which thou fhouldft never lack, by living here, could I but teach thee to know my good will towards thee!'—In the energy of what I felt, I drew nearer to the table; and the bird, having either finifhed its meal, or being terrified by my approach, flew two or three times round the room, in fearch of the fpot by which it had entered, and having found it, vanifhed in a moment from my fight.

'Thou art gone!' I exclaimed, 'never to return hither!'—There was a charm in

the tall weeds I had entered, that seemed to render even the living air and keen fo most as wish the little animal would be reprieved, an enviable fruition when compared with my own.—'Many are the hard deprivations with misery,' I cried; 'but thou hast a balm for all my sufferings,—thou enjoyest liberty,—the sweetest gift and richest blessing heaven pours on its created beings; deprived of it, all other life is but life.—Knowing what I have learnt from experience of the bitterness of its loss, I would not be the wretch to inflict it, even on the least kind I have just beheld, no! though my own enlargement were the price of its captivity!'

"On the following morning, to my great delight and surprise, the little bird again flew into my prison; I threw it some crumbs; it

[illegible] hopped about the floor, flew upon the table, danced about the room, and again left me.

"Every morning I was now visited by the red-breast, I had nothing else to employ my attention; and I found a great source of amusement in waiting the arrival of my feathered visitor: I never failed to feed him plentifully, and did every endeavour to divest him of his natural timidity, and dispose him to receive my caresses: and I soon succeeded in it: for that he began to view me without fear, as he formerly entered several hours in my presence, that when [illegible] began to exhale her cooling fumes, my little companion, with [illegible] much the appearance of the world he inhabited, began his notes in the hour of silence, and returned to finish his solitary [illegible]

[illegible] and I began to think that some accident had befallen him, or that he had entirely forgotten the spot where he had been so hospitably received, and gave him up as lost.—On the part of my persecutors also, a total silence as to my doom had been observed towards me, and I began to fear I was a prisoner for life.

"Winter was now again advancing, when, as I was one morning reclining on my hard bed in mournful meditation, a fluttering in the room called my eyes to the part where I had heard it, and I beheld on the table my long-lamented bird!

"I felt the glow of unexpected pleasure mount into my cheeks; and I immediately rose and crumbled for him a piece of bread: he clapped in thankfulness for my gift, and I

seem indeed to have as pleased as myself at the renewal of our acquaintance.

"During the winter he continued to visit me, as he had done the former one, and having made for him a perch, which I contrived, by means of a crooked nail, to fasten out of a long fulmer which I had thrust from my table, and which I fastened up in one corner of my pillow, by tapping it in a small circle I made in either wall, he often remained with me during the night, as well as the day, and sometimes for four or five days successively; and the pleasure which, shut out as I was from all intercourse with my own species, I enjoyed in the unrestrained visits of this little bird, was unutterably great.

"With the spring he again deserted me,

and with the water he again returned to my prison, and then, all the hours that after his first visiting me, did he continue to be my companion during the whole day.

"It was one day, about the middle of the fourth winter that he happened to have fallen asleep on his perch, with his head hid in the feathers of his wing, when the jailor coming with my breakfast, and observing him, darted swift the prison, and, ere I could stop his cruel arm, killed my unoffending favourite, and wrung his neck.

"Need I think to own that tears burst into my eyes?

"I would have remonstrated with the unfeeling wretch on his barbarity, had I not immediately considered that what I might

the window, and jumping upon it, hoping I might find the body rolled on the outward frame of the window; but the hope was vain.

"I descended from the stool, and standing with my arms folded in the middle of my prison, reflection again led me to draw a comparison between the present situation of myself and that of my lamented bird; and the only inference I could draw, from a long train of thought, I expressed in a short exclamation, which I instantly uttered aloud,—'Poor, little bird, art thou the happier.'

CHAP. XVII.

Seldom, when
[illegible]

MEASURE FOR MEASURE.

ANOTHER year passed in solitude like the former ones, and the space of time I had now been imprisoned, in all my remembrance my best being overjoyed at the Bailiff, began to reconcile me from habit to that state which seemed to be marked out as the condition of my remaining life.

"No change had taken place in the treatment shown me, for that milk and thin wine were always brought me instead of water with my bread, and that

I was not now so frequently led out for air upon the platform as I had formerly been; being very seldom conducted thither above once in eight or nine days.

"About this time a man whom I had never before seen, brought me my morning and evening portion of provision, instead of the jailor who had been ashamed to attend me; he appeared to be about twenty-five years of age, tall, and strongly built, but of a benign aspect, and formed ill to suit the office in which he served.

"As he visited me for several successive days, and the mildness of his countenance encouraged me to address him, I inquired whether he who had formerly attended me was dead.

conversation had been so short.

ten odium and painful fears, now burst upon my afflicted heart, and every nerve was strained to form a conception how this youth could be unfaithful to my welfare.

"Five months passed, and this youth still visited me; nor did I once behold him who had before attended me, but still I perceived, from the conduct of my newly-declared friend, that no opportunity for conference was given us, for he always hastened from me prior to quickly as possible, whom however forgetting to put at ease a look of despair, which forced to keep alive the weak spark of hope he had lighted in my breast.

"One evening about this time, when he brought to my supper, he told, in the same artless way he had always spoken to me

in, but apparently with greater fight of her than he had ever before shown of himself, overheard, 'Don't go to sleep to-night.' I obeyed his injunction, and waited with the greatest impatience the hour that should disclose to me his meaning.

"The clock had just struck two, when a person in an under voice at the grating of my window, which I immediately knew to be that of my new friend, said 'Adieu, *monsieur!*'

"I took for my stool, and placing it under the window, mounted upon it, and as soon then nearly meeting, he said, 'If I should contrive your escape from this place, and this kingdom, will you let me be your servant?'

"'[illegible] my friend,' I replied.

"'Only let you won't let me starve, *mon cher*.'

"'[illegible]' I returned, begging him [illegible] I could [illegible] of the means of subsistence.

"'Enough said,' he returned; 'then don't refuse me [illegible] any thing that is offered you; and leave the rest to me.'

"'Drink!' I repeated, but the young man was gone.

"I remained some minutes at the window, but he did not return, neither did I hear the [illegible]. I then left the [illegible]

room, and throwing myself on my mattress, I began to ruminate on the words which I had just read, and the only idea I could suffer myself to entertain was that I was intended to be poisoned.

At an early hour in the morning, I heard my prison door unlocked, and a first centinel, he commanded me to kneel by him, and having prayed that I might have with humanity the Emperor he was about to administer to me, he told me that I was condemned to die on that day.

A few hours before, I should have thought death the greatest happiness that could ever befall me; but now, with the fairest hope of enjoyment which we ever form, even on the point of

receive this sentence, and even tempted to believe that by his means I should escape it. I felt an unutterable shock on its being first announced to me.

"I am inclined to think that the emotions which this intelligence produced in me, were to me of essential service; for I am well convinced, that the sudden change my countenance underwent was so great, as to have baffled the suspicion of the priest, had he entertained any, of what had passed between me and the young jailor.

"He asked my condition. A solution of nearly eleven years from the world could have added no fit of magnitude to my account of former misdeeds, and of them I had made a confession on the very morning on which I had first been brought to the Bal-

tile; thus this talk was quickly ended. He then again ordered me to kneel, and having prayed by me full two hours, he gave me his blessing, and departed.

"In a few minutes the governor, attended by two guards, and the young man in whom my last and only hope rested, entered.

"Obeying the governor's orders, the young man poured from a phial which he had brought in his hand, a thick black liquor into a small bason, which the governor then took, and holding it out to me, commanded me to drink it, the two guards meanwhile levelling their bayonnet at my breast, as a tacit threat in case of my refusing the draught.

"I crossed myself, and drank; the bason fell from my hand, and I raised my eyes to

form of my friend: he had left the prison; the governor made a signal to the guards; they went out; he followed them; and I heard him turn the lock upon me.

"What a moment of horror was this! Uncertain whether or not I had forfeited the benefit of death: if I had, how near the brink of eternity was I now standing!—if I had not, how dreadful a fate might await both me and the young man, should his stratagem fail!

"Within the space of an hour a faint sickness seized me. I lay down upon my pallet, and pulled the blanket over me: an icy coldness ran through my veins, and big drops of perspiration started on my forehead: in a short time a heaviness, which I could not struggle against, weighed down

I then thought the sleep of death!"

[illegible] narrative when the shepherd entering the room, informed him that two men, who had fled from his lords in the Italian, had declared they knew it, and insisted on coming into the cottage in search of him, and that 'twas in vain endeavouring to prevent their entrance.

The Count rolled his eyes in silence to Laurette; they betrayed the wildest agitation and fear. Laurette rose from her seat, and threw herself upon her father's neck, and at the [illegible] voices of Theodore and Ernestus were heard by them in the adjoining apartment.

Count Byroff ſtarted up, and ſnatching his dagger from his ſide, prepared himſelf to meet their entrance into the chamber.

The chevalier was the firſt that appeared; the count made a dart at him, which he reſiſting, threw the count upon the floor, and treading on him with his left foot, drew his ſword, while he muttered curſes on him for a villain and a traitor.

Lauretta, inſtigated by the ſcene before her, caught his arm, and falling on her knees by the ſide of her father's body, ſhe exclaimed, "Here, in this boſom ſheath thy ſword; but ſpare, oh ſpare my father!"

Count Byroff's prayers and ſtruggles confirmed Theodore that Lauretta had truly named him her parent; and a momentary

ſurpriſe ſuſpended his power of action. This count Byroff perceived, and availing himſelf of the aſtoniſhment of his antagoniſt, by an inſtantaneous effort raiſed himſelf again on his feet, and dropping his dagger, made himſelf maſter of the ſword Theodore had juſt drawn. Kroonzer immediately drew his weapon, and ſpringing forward, preſented himſelf to oppoſe the count in defence of the chevalier, whilſt Lauretta, regardleſs of herſelf, her thoughts centred only in her father's ſafety, and almoſt made frantic by the danger in which ſhe now beheld him, ran without the cottage, piercing the air with her cries and calls for aſſiſtance.

Theodore was in an inſtant at her heels; and then firſt recollecting her own danger, on beholding herſelf ſo cloſely purſued by him ſhe moſt dreaded, ſhe flew to the young

cottager who was ſtanding without the cottage-door, and claſping his hand, ſhe cried out, "Oh! ſave me from him, I conjure you!"

The lad, who was ſtill ſtanding with the oaken ſtaff in his hand, with which he had endeavoured to repulſe the entrance of the chevalier and his accomplice, and ſtill panting from the unequal combat he had ſuſtained, moved either by the impulſe of humanity, or fired by the beauty of his intereſting ſuppliant, flew upon Theodore with the deſperation a wolf flies to the combat when attacked by a lion, and conſcious that he muſt either conquer or die.

For ſome moments the ſtruggle was maintained with equal valour and dexterity; but at length the ſuperior ſtrength of the

chevalier prevailing over that of his antagoniſt, Lauretta beheld her champion levelled with the ground; again ſhe ſhrieked, and again ſhe attempted to fly, but her trembling limbs could no longer ſupport her, and ſhe ſunk on the earth in a ſwoon.

END OF THE SECOND VOLUME.